

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

**Earth Day • COVID news • Chefs feed the needy**  
**Online edition publishes COVID updates, page 13+.**



Back L-R: 2nd engineer, Bradley Richmond; First mate, Stuart Coleman; Bosun, Paul Shelton; owners Adam Alpert and Gisela Alpert; Captain Henry Bardsley; Deck hand, John Roné

Front L-R: 3rd stew, Thea Sedgewick; 2nd stew, Claire Fitoussi; Chief stew, Keryn Rankin; (Not pictured: Dive instructor, Aubri Keith; Chief engineer, Brett Julian; Chef, Jilles Kuppens) Story & Photo: Julie Morgan

## For the love of animals...

**“It wasn’t in the plan, but sometimes good things happen when you go off course!”** Adam Alpert

Covid 19 has had a huge effect on the cats and dogs at Bonaire’s Animal Shelter. Not physically, but financially as the virus has hit the humane organization hard without tourists dollars.

President of the shelter’s board of directors, Jane Disko, reports that 70% of the donations (\$72,000) was derived from the tourist dollar in 2019. Upkeep of the shelter, food, free sterilization costs and payroll are barely covered even if you add on the 26k from the government.

So when Adam and Gisela Alpert visited the shelter and donated a \$1000 check, it couldn’t have come at a better time.

The couple from Vermont/Florida sailed in with their 11 member crew on their 60 meter sailboat, the Seahawk on March 12. Plans to spend a few days on Bonaire were altered when on March 14, the Bonaire government shut-down the airways and moorings for ships. Of course, other island ports were closed too, so they were stuck here. Animal lovers Gisela and crew member Keryn Rankin said, “lets go find the animals.”

The \$1000 check was a much appreciated donation to the shelter but the Seahawk owners and crew wanted to do more. Owners and crew are now footing the bill for a redesigned ‘Puppy Palace’ and they are even doing the labor. Adam, Gisela and all the crew are pouring cement, shoveling sand, painting and whatever else needs to be done. They have also enlisted the help of local contractor

Alwin Linthorst to help with the job.

Seahawk Captain Henry Bardsley designed the new palace with everything a puppy could want or need except a new owner. But, until that time, any puppy would love this new palace that is complete with a sand pit, toys, covered patio, sleeping quarters and perhaps a sprinkler for extra hot play days.

Besides working on the shelter project the crew is getting some much needed vacation time and enjoying Bonaire for the first time.

But the owners of Seahawk, Adam, an engineer for his Bio-tek life science company, and wife Gisela, an artist and sculptor, have previously been to Bonaire. Adam dived Bonaire’s reefs for 10 days in 1983 and Gisela in 1996.

Gisela calls Bonaire’s reefs a jewel. She said before returning to Bonaire she was ready to give up diving. But she’s now rethinking that because Bonaire’s dive areas are so well preserved compared to other places,

The Alper’s bought the Seahawk in November. They have been married for 19 years and met through animals at the North Country Animal league in Vermont where Gisela volunteered. The Alper’s said the animals brought them together.

“One thing we are so happy about is to help with the animal shelter. There is goodness here on so many levels,” said Adam, “The way a society treats its animals is tied

to how people treat each other. So we want to encourage that in a little way.”

The Seahawk mission statement is: Foster basic science research, science education and technology innovation.



Adam and Gisela Alpert receive a thank you from Roxy and Granny shelter dogs and Sanne Attevelt, shelter manager.



# FLOTSAM and JETSAM

## First 44 of 244 return to Bonaire



ers were in the Netherlands for school or simply on vacation.

Everyone returning to Bonaire carried a document from the originating country's health department stating they were fit to fly and free of any virus symptoms.

Following arrival they were bussed to the selected quarantine hotel, Buddy Dive Resort, where they will remain for the next 14 days.

While in quarantine, no one may leave their condo, walk the property or swim in the pool or ocean. They may have no contact with any of the hotel employees. Each 'family-type' group has a 'buddy' assigned to take care of needs such as shopping. A medical staff is available if there is a health issue.

Buddy Dive was selected from several locations, and these two weeks are con-

sidered a test drive for the quarantine. The resort will receive a small stipend from the government. The returning residents will pay nothing for their stay at the quarantine hotel.

Buddy Dive manager, Paul Coolen said, "We are helping the community and it helps us with some fixed owner expenses... We think the government is pretty great in getting all the people back."

*Julie Morgan*



Two flights arrived in Bonaire on April 17 carrying the first 44 repatriated Bonaire residents.

A large crowd of people stood by their cars hoping for a glimpse of the returning individuals.

The plane from Columbia carried seven people who had been there for non-virus related medical procedures, The Netherlands plane contained the remaining 37 individuals. Some individuals work in law enforcement or at the hospital. Oth-

## Bonaire continues to respond to the pandemic

► As of April 20, Bonaire's CORONA-19 infection score is one probable, one positive, and one maybe. Patient A, the probable and first to be reported, produced only inconclusive test results and has now recovered. Patient B, a known contact of Patient A, has tested positive, is being treated, and is on the mend. The most recent report, Patient C, has been diagnosed with pneumonia. The patient tests negative for the virus but as a precaution is being treated as a CORONA-19 case. Governor Rijna announced that "All people who have had contact with the patient have been placed in preventative quarantine." He reassured the island that there is no reason to panic, and no lockdown is being considered.

► Since April 14, COVID-19 testing has been available to Bonaireans at a drive-through test site. They just had to call 715-8900 ext. 1649 during working hours, answer some questions asked by a nurse, and be given an appointment. The testing was conducted in the parking lot at the entrance on Kaya Soeur Bartola. The testing was scheduled to end on April 21.

► The OLB has been in a quandary about the group most immediately affected by the imposition of social distancing rules—the sex workers. The problem: the women exist in bureaucratic limbo because they are not associated with businesses registered with the Chamber of Commerce. The OLB announced it "understands the situation" and "has decided to allow the ladies to qualify as independent entrepreneurs." Pachi's former employees can now apply for income supplement payments.

► Employees of SZW (Social Affairs and Work) labored most of Easter week-end processing "temporary regulation" requests—that is, applications for supplementary income payments during the virus crisis—in the BES. Applications covering more than two thousand people have been received. Half have been paid out so far. Information about the emergency regulation of SZW and the applications forms can be found on [www.rijksdienstn.com/covid-19](http://www.rijksdienstn.com/covid-19).

► A KLM flight has arrived with a large and welcome shipment of medical equipment, medicines, and protective equipment destined for use on Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire. The shipment will provide 30 additional IC respiratory beds in the islands. Additional teams of physicians and nurses, contracted through an international company that deploys medical teams, are coming as well. State Secretary Paul Blokhuis (VSW) said that he, Raymond Knops of Kingdom Relations, and fellow government members in the Caribbean, "Worked hard on both sides of the ocean to have these goods on the plane today."

► Small islands have turned out to be a good place to weather a pandemic. According to a recent report in the British newspaper The Telegraph, 15 countries and 12 inhabited territories had not yet reported a COVID-19 case. All were islands. Bonaire was the second largest island on the list in terms of population, but Bonaire longer qualifies for the list now that it has reported a positive case.

► Rocargo announced that the U.S. has blocked export of medical equipment needed to counter the pandemic.

► WEB, pointing out that it still needs to pay its bills too, has asked people to keep paying their water and electricity bills, especially given that their incomes are being supplemented by the government. WEB and the Executive Council have delayed cutting off the utilities of the hotels that have many employees and large bills because they are trying to work out an arrangement.

► Seventeen residents of Bonaire, stranded by the closure of the airport, took legal action against the OLB, claiming they had a right to return immediately. The court ruled that the OLB had demonstrated sufficiently that not all residents could return at the same time because the care capacity on the island was limited. It declared the OLB could continue to bring people home in careful phases. (See the story above for phase one of the repatriation.)

► The military sends two ships to help out. The Navy ship Zr. MS. Zeeland (His Majesty Zeeland) has arrived in Bonairean waters on April 18th as part of the military assistance in the Caribbean. The Island Governor saluted the ship from the pier as a thank you for the support provided. A second ship, Zr. MS. Karel Doorman, has been sent as well. A logistic support vessel with two helicopters, it can perform a wide range of tasks, from guaranteeing food security to medical evacuations. It's also bringing a hurricane emergency package. *D.M.R.*

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**Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:**  
Phone (+599)796 4055  
Email: [info@bonairereporter.com](mailto:info@bonairereporter.com)  
Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

#### The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher  
[BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com)  
Production: Barbara Lockwood  
**Contributors:** Angliet Nature Lover, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Sky Watch: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini, Kate Butler, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Jane Madden-Disko, Travis Sullins, Amy Weir, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Julianka Clarendia, Don M. Ricks, Pam Teitel, Alan Zale, George Buckley  
**Distribution:** Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline,

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**You'll find regular updates in our online edition**  
<https://bonairereporter.com/>



# 850 meals and counting

With no incoming tourists from the daily flights to Bonaire, due to Covid 19, many of the restaurants are closed and only a few are doing take-out. Chefs, restaurant owners and suppliers have been left with a surplus amount of food intended for meals for the tourists who are no longer visiting. Pantries, refrigerators and warehouses were teeming with food and more shipments were expected. So what to do?

Nine local chefs with quite a bit of time on their hands put their heads together and devised a plan to prepare and provide meals for people in need.

They realized that many people are out of work due to the closings of tourism driven businesses and they might welcome a helping hand. Schools are canceled, so kids who once relied on a daily school lunch meal could go without until school resumes. And there is an entire group of elderly people who are always at risk of going hungry.

Han ten Winkel, owner at CHEFS Bonaire said, "This is an eye opener for a lot of people to think that there is a big group of people that still need help Covid or no Covid,"

The nine chefs work at various restaurants and catering companies around Bonaire. Many of the chefs know each other from working with the culinary team or other restaurant networks. Others just came together through this project.



It all comes together in the kitchen at Floris van Loo's Rum Runners restaurant at Captain Don's Habitat. Floris is also the president of the Bonaire Restaurant Association.

The way it works, is the chefs meet and access the ingredients they have and see what they can make.

Han said, "Anything that could spoil before our restaurants might possibly open again is used. We also have meat and veggie donations from warehouse suppliers."

The chef meal project has also received monetary donations from anonymous

suppliers. If the chefs need an extra ingredient to complete a meal, they use a portion of the donated funds to purchase the items.

Han said, "We will continue to do this as long as the supplies last and we don't have to go to work."

To date, the chefs have cooked together five times and prepared approximately 100 meals each time. And there are another 350 pre-made meals in the freezer including lasagna, stoba, rice, pasta, funchi etc,

Following one of the cooking sessions, the meals are packaged along with a donated cake and water. The meals are delivered by OLB.

"We work with a lot of anonymous donations and ingredients given by local companies. We want to thank all of them, without names, as there are so many! Big and small, we all love them for their support," said Han. *Story & photos Julie Morgan*



"We are just a bunch of guys and girls that thought, 'Let's do this!'"

Standing L - R: Han ten Winkel, owner and chef at CHEFS Bonaire; Rachindra Donge, chef Plaza Resort Bonaire; Isidoor van Riemsdijk, school teacher, MBO; Harry de Boer, owner El Bigote Mexican Restaurant; Dhanesh de Kok, owner Catering Bonaire and team captain Bonaire Culinary team 2020

Sitting L-R: Mark Tromop, owner and chef at CHEFS Bonaire; Floris van Loo, godfather of the Bonaire Culinary team, owner of Rum Runners restaurant and host to meal project; Wendy Maxima Upia Mieses, Hill Top Caribbean Club ( Not pictured - Miguel [Poppie] Saragoza, chef Rum Runners restaurant.)

## FOR SALE Courtyard Village Villa K20 Family Home



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# Marking 50 years of Earth Day



View from Brandaris, 1990s, photo Julie Morgan

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day this week we have much to be grateful for despite the heavy work ahead to continue to protect Planet Earth...which should perhaps be called Planet Ocean as over 70% of it is the Blue World! As it is said, "The oxygen in every other breath we take came from the oceans"!

Our beloved Bonaire has been a world leader in both ocean and land conservation efforts; from Slagbaai/Washington, the Bonaire Marine Park, Goto Meir, the Flamingo Sanctuary, Klein Bonaire and Lac Bay.

As Captain Don Stewart used to say: "Bonaire is to reef conservation as Greenwich is to time" ! For over forty years Jack Spengler and I used Bonaire as a case study in sound environmental management in our Harvard University programs.

It was 25 years ago that people became committed to saving an undeveloped Klein Bonaire and its dynamic

**Earth day: continued on page 8**



## Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

Dear Friends,  
We hope you all stay healthy during this crisis, and we look forward to seeing you again on Bonaire. Please send your real estate questions to Kate and Jean at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com)

## Letters

To the editor:

It is deceitful to print:

The OLB says the fuel stored at Bopec will be used up this month, and that it is working on short term arrangements to switch Contour Global to diesel fuel delivered from Curaçao, and on long term, island-owned, provisions for storing fuel safely and in a sustainable manner, regardless what transpires at Bopec.

When in another article you print:

The HVO will be delivered to an emergency facility being built at the airport. The fuel will be offloaded into a fuel barge tied to the existed airport fuel jetty, then trucked to Contour Global. Preparations are underway for this mid-term solution.

When there are existing facilities, under utilized and ready now without the threat of damaging the sea environs or costly installation. The OLB could use the powers of state, just as it closed all the schools (stopping needed education), the gyms (stopping healthy exercise),

closing the libraries (that could have provided something good to do while at home), limiting or closing the snacks and restaurants (stopping social interaction for those without other resources) for the public good, it could take over the unused tanks at BOPEC to provide necessary services for the island.

Not utilizing what is available is a crime against the people of Bonaire and a definite threat to our important island resource. The OLB is not doing what it can and should.

"The questions that need to be asked and answered are:

1. Who is or has profited from installing storage tanks in the water and not on land?;

2. Where are the Environmental Protection agencies including but not limited to Stinapa and DCNA and why are they not involved? "

*Charles M. Baltayan*

## Opinion: COVID19 measures on Bonaire, now and after...

Both officially and unofficially, the news is almost exclusively dominated by updates and information about the status of the COVID19 virus on Bonaire and in the world. This is understandable, especially since we are not talking about the flu or a cold, but about a seriously dangerous virus for which an effective vaccine or treatment is not yet available. Measures vary from country to country and region to region and are therefore sometimes more confusing than enlightening for the people.

All the same, there is no citizen on Bonaire who can or would want to deny that COVID19 measures are necessary and based on sound logic such as, no crowds, keep your distance, wash hands regularly, cough and sneeze in the crook of your elbow or tissues that you correctly dispose of. These are logical measures with which we can all prevent that things might spin out of control on Dushi Bonaire.

The fact that here on Bonaire we are still spared even a single (known) case of COVID19 infection is testimony to the above measures being taken and properly enforced by the island's council and its services such as health care, police, fire brigade, etc. And, to the good of us all, the people on the island likewise seem to take their responsibility in this.

The human suffering that COVID19 brings to the world in so many countries

seems to be passing Bonaire by for the time being, and that makes hopeful. However, the social and economic impact hits us just as hard, if not harder than in many other societies.

Bonaire's 'relative' prosperity exists by and large because of tourism and it is largely this industry that provides employment and island revenues. On the one hand through direct visitor spending and, on the other, through government levies, fees and taxes. However, the vast majority of these money flows have now come to screeching halt. It is therefore very important that Bonaire, as a 'special' municipality of NL, is assured of comparable, if not the same, support measures as are currently available and/or being introduced in NL. This is likely to dampen the extremity of a guaranteed economic downturn and will at least ease to some extent the immediate financial pain for citizens and businesses, which is a good thing

And then the COVID crisis was over...

And..., a large part of the populations elsewhere in the world, but especially in the richer west, are now resistant to COVID19 or fast becoming so. Communities are slowly getting going again, the quarantine-lid comes off and even the first, careful vacations are being booked again. Of course on Bonaire we look forward to the visitors coming once again, bringing with them their much needed

tourist dollars, right?

Or maybe not...?

From 1492 to about 1548, the Caribbean and South America experienced one brutal epidemic after another and ordinary flu, but also plague, smallpox and the like, decimated entire native populations on the islands and the mainland. A variety of viruses against which Europeans were already resistant was able to run rampant and took hold like wildfire.

Rewind to the 2nd half of 2020; tourists from the US and Europe, most of whom are now resistant carriers of COVID19, are returning or coming to visit Bonaire once more. Dushi Bonaire, where no resident is yet resistant to the virus...

The consequences can be guessed. Without a well-thought-out plan to prevent this scenario and with a relatively unhealthy population and virtually no IC capacity to effectively handle something like this, this does not make for an optimistic scenario. It is therefore highly recommended for OLB, administrators and other authorities to work out a follow-up scenario, in coordination with NL, which will come into effect immediately when the borders open again and the first very welcome tourists land on the airport or dock in the harbour once more.

Those who can afford it may choose to leave for NL or another country to

become COVID19 resistant under well checked and cared for conditions, before returning to Bonaire in good, COVID19 resistant shape. Those for whom that is not an option should at least be certain in their knowledge that Bonaire is able to cope with sufficient capacity and quality with the COVID19 cases that will then inevitably occur. Sufficient IC capacity and skilled medical personnel are essential for this and can be estimated ahead of time very well, both in terms of specifications and numbers, on the basis of the already available statistical figures.

The only alternative besides letting the virus run unchecked, is to keep Bonaire sealed off for the next 12-18 months until an adequate vaccine becomes available and the entire population has been inoculated. Both do not seem an option to me. It would therefore grace the island's council and other authorities to inform the population based on a sound vision outlining their approach and how they will handle the socio-economic and medical situation post COVID19 when it arrives on Bonaire and arrive it will, you can bet on that!

Not an expert, of which there are far too many already, but only a fellow citizen/islander who tries with common sense and a down-to-earth view to provide some perspective on often emotionally driven discussions.

*FJ Unger*

# POLICE REPORT

## April 3 to April 20, 2020

### Arrests

On Saturday, April 4, a brawl was reported at a snack on Kaya Falcon. One brawler had a cut and was taken by the ambulance for further treatment. A man has been arrested for assault.

At around 4am on Tuesday, April 14, a man, 63, was caught red-handed trying to break into nightlife / dining on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. The man was arrested for theft and destruction

In the early evening hours of Tuesday, April 14, during a check-up at a catering facility on Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia, a man, 24, was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES. A number of sachets containing suspected marijuana and hash was found in the suspect's pouch.

Around 6pm Sunday, April 19, a man, 20, interviewed at a home in Barrio Mamparia Kutu was detained for assault and destruction.

In the later evening hours of Sunday, April 19, a man, 58, was detained for threats with a weapon. A knife was seized during the arrest.

### Found

On Sunday April 5, a scooter was found during a patrol on Kaminda Tras di Mon-

taña. The scooter was on a secluded spot behind a bush. It was taken to the police station for further investigation. Around 7pm a report was received about found objects. A bag with clothes and official documents was found, including two passports, payment cards and a driver's license. The goods were taken to the police station for further investigation.

### Traffic accidents & violations

On Friday April 10, a man, 23, was held because he was a danger to himself and others on the road. The driver of a scooter, he ignored the police stop sign and then opposed arrest. He was also arrested for violating the Opium Act BES. Both the scooter the suspect was driving and a bag with a marijuana-like herbs were confiscated.

On Friday April 17 two cars collided on the Bulevar E.E.G. around 9:40 AM. Probably the driver of one of the cars became unwell, causing the car to hit the wrong side of the road and crash into an oncoming car. The drivers of both cars have been taken to hospital for medical treatment.

### Property crimes

Between Saturday April 11 and Sunday April 12, thieves took away jewelry from a house on Kaya Hobo.

Between Thursday April 9 and Tuesday April 14 thieves forced the petrol tanks

of two buses from the elderly care center in Rincon and took half a tank of diesel.

Between Tuesday, April 14, 9:30pm and Wednesday, April 15, around 7am a number of Makita-brand tools were stolen from a shed in a garden of a house on Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

Between Tuesday, April 14, 11pm and Wednesday, April 15, 6:30am, thieves took away a blue bicycle and a lop rabbit. Previously, on April 11, five bicycles were removed from the neighbors. On April 16, a number of things were also removed from another neighbor.

Between 6:30am and noon, thieves destroyed the back door to enter a house on Kaya Neerlandia. It is not yet known what has been taken.

On Saturday, April 18, two house searches in Antriol and Barrio Mexico were conducted in connection with home burglaries. During the search in Antriol, a young man, 16, was held.

Between Wednesday, April 15, around 9pm and Thursday, April 16, thieves took away a Karcher brand high-pressure cleaner, a drill and a Bosch grinder. The tools were in a locked loft in the yard of a house on Kaya Mazurka.

Between Saturday, April 18, around 4pm and Sunday, April 19, around 12:45am, thieves broke in to a home on Kaminda Lagun through a bedroom window. They took away a TV and laptop.

### Fire

In the night hours of Friday, April 17, at around 2:15am, the police reported that a car was on fire at Kaya Oniks. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. The cause of the fire is unknown. There were no injuries. The case is being investigated.

### Emergency ordinance

Checks have been carried out in recent days to comply with the gathering regulation of the emergency ordinance. On Sunday, April 12, the owner of a catering facility and its visitors were strictly maintained because there were a group of more than 50 people who did not follow the social distancing rules. On Thursday, April 16, children playing on the street and a parent were addressed on Kaya Deseado.

On Saturday, April 18, inspectors from the Directorate for Supervision and Enforcement of the OLB, in collaboration with the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force, together with the Lieutenant Governor, Edison Rijna, and Chief of Police, Jose Rosales, visited eight locations in Playa and Rincon. This check was performed to ensure compliance with the Emergency Ordinance. During the audit, both owners and visitors to the locations were made aware of the rules of social distancing.

## Ask a Geek: The Hypocrite Geek

by Brian Niessen

It is Sunday about 1pm and I had just finished writing a great article for the "Ask the Geek" column in the Bonaire Reporter.

And then all of a sudden my computer went blank. So I rebooted, and part way through the rebooting process, it gave an error so I rebooted again... over and over.

There was an error message being displayed, but only for a split second... so I got out my phone and videoed the screen, and then on the phone I was able to go through the video frame by frame and see the error "Can't mount the hard disk" which was confusing because it was boot-

ing...FROM THE HARD DISK!

So, on goes the "Sherlock Holmes" hat and I spend the next three hours trying to figure out what the problem was. During this time though, I received an email (on my phone luckily) from Julie at the Reporter "Will I get an article from you today?"

So, I have taken a pause from trying to sort out my hard disk mess to write this article instead. Of course most people will say "Just go back to your backup", which is what I will end up doing anyway, but the document I was working on (the original version of this article) wouldn't have been saved to the backup anyway because I do backups at night and had just finished writing the article.

So what is the solution to stop something like this from happening again? Really, there is no 100% perfect solution

because there is always a small amount of time (even seconds), in which the latest best-seller, amazing photo, or inventive business plan is at risk. The only thing we can do is minimize the risk.

So, doing daily backups will help of course, but there are still the unbacked-up files at risk. You could use "the cloud" (I am writing this on Google Docs) which saves it automatically to the Google servers constantly. There are also programs that back-up files which have been changed immediately after the change (either to another hard disk, or to the cloud).

The good thing about Google Docs is that you don't need to be on your own computer to use it, and you can share it for other people to see and work on things with you in real time; you make a change, they see it. Great for business, but you have to 100 percent trust that Google isn't looking over your shoulder.

The "just after you made a change" backup programs are my favorite, (even though I didn't have it installed and running) because you can continue to use your own programs (and not Google Docs for example), and backups are pretty much in real time.

So, lesson learned - I called today's article the "The Hypocrite Geek" because I wasn't using all the tools available to me to make my backups and look what happened.

Good Luck, Keep Backing Up, Stay Safe and Healthy, and keep your Virus Checker updated!

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

Shower time! Betelgeuse!

April 20th -26th  
It's shower time!

Hi again stargazers Trace here -- meteor showers are my favorite, and while this April shower won't bring May flowers, it might bring fireballs!

This week is the annual Lyrid meteor shower, one of the oldest recorded showers. They're caused by debris from the comet Thatcher which won't show up again until 2276.

Meteors will peak around mid-week at 18 meteors per hour or one every few

minutes. Find a dark spot away from city lights; bring a chair, a warm drink and a blanket and look northeast. You'll see Vega, and (hopefully) some great fireballs!

Humans have been watching meteors rain down through our spaceship earth since forever, but this shower was first recorded 2500 years ago in ancient China.

**April 27th - May 3rd**  
**Betelgeuse, Betelgeuse, Betelgeuse!**

When you look at our sky at eight pm this week take a sec to look at Orion's top left star -- that's Betelgeuse.

Betelgeuse is a red super-giant about 600 light years from us.

It's usually the tenth brightest star in the sky, but right now? It's not even close; it's been dimming. Why? Because it is going to explode into a supernova.

The astronomical community has a ton of theories as to why, but some believe, supernova.

Unfortunately stars are indifferent to our puny human lifetimes, so it might not explode for one-hundred-thousand years, but whenever it does, we'll have one of the greatest shows in all of astronomy. It would even be visible during the day!

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



**Submit your photos!**

See the rules for contest on our facebook page.





# Reef Glimpses- Yellowtail Snappers: they're adaptive, but are they adaptive enough?

When children first draw fish, the result is a sort of "generic" fish, universally recognized as a fish. Kids' fish don't look like rocks or sponges (scorpionfish, frogfish), or flying saucers (rays), or pieces of rope (trumpetfish, eel); they only look like fish.

One fish with the same shape as the kids' fish is the yellowtail snapper, a creature well-represented around Bonaire. Yellowtail snappers are not only general-fish shaped, their behaviors -- specifically, their food-seeking behaviors -- are also very general. They will and can do just about anything to get food.

Under usual circumstances, yellowtail snappers, to quote Reef Fish Identification, "swim alone or in loose schools or aggregations, well above reefs." If we swim out into the blue water here, they come closer to check us out, then, since we're not doing anything that signals "food" to them, they go on about their business, which includes staying close enough to the reef to see disturbances there and check them out quickly. The hunting parties that accompany morays and snake eels often include a yellowtail or two.

These yellowtail snapper behaviors were altered in the 1980's on Bonaire, when divers discovered the activity of feeding fish. Divers were actually encouraged to take their breakfast leftovers -- sausages, bread, eggs! etc. -- on dives, and to scatter the food in the water. At first, the goodies were nibbled cautiously by a few brave parrotfish and maybe some surgeonfish.

In only a few weeks, though, the yellowtail snappers discovered the activity of eating food provided by divers, and the situation changed dramatically. The yellowtails learned reecccally quickly that divers usually stopped swimming when they scattered food, so they'd mob any

hovering diver just in case. This in itself was a bit unnerving to many divers.

Scatter-feeding didn't work so well for the parrotfish and surgeonfish, either. The yellowtails saw each edible before the other fishes, they swam to it fastest, and, if necessary, would fight for every mouthful.

Such yellowtail enthusiasm was fun to see, and fun to create, once or twice. Then we began to see its side effects...

If a photographer stopped to take several shots of some subject, each photo after the first (sometimes even the first) would be sprinkled with yellowtail tails, or yellowtail bellies, or yellowtails blocking the faces of the subjects of the photo, or yellowtails blocking the flash light. Yellowtails invented photobombing -- thirty years ago!

Another example: as divers swam along, fingers trailing, those fingers were occasionally mistaken by yellowtails for food, and nipped. Yellowtails don't munch on fingers, but they bite first and check later to prevent a competitor from eating the delectable. Historical note: helping the yellowtails distinguish fingers from food was one reason divers began wearing gloves on Bonaire.

Eventually, realizing the disadvantages of scatter-feeding, divers stopped doing it. Eventually, our yellowtail snappers calmed down and began behaving more "normally".

Then came the lionfish invasion.

When our first wave of lionfish were small, lionfishers were amazed and delighted to be able to encourage yellowtail snappers to take bits of lionfish right from their hands. Of course, the lionfish hunters

soon realized the disadvantages and quit. Some of those educated yellowtails are still around, though, and their training took place wherever we find ourselves accompanied by yellowtails.

So, a suggestion to lionfishers who are not able to carry their lionfish out of the sea: instead of leaving them on the reef or in the blue water, make them difficult for lionfish-eaters to detect by pushing the dead lionfish as far back as you can under a ledge. The goal is to prevent yellowtails from connecting divers with dead lionfish by increasing the time between the stashing of the lionfish by divers and its discovery by yellowtails. If the goal is not achieved, the yellowtails soon realize they only have to follow the divers. Some of these yellowtails have us figured out so thoroughly they only bother to accompany divers with lionfishing devices!

As I write this, I've been thinking about all those greedy, smart yellowtails lurking just beyond our dropoff. There's gotta be a way we could introduce yellowtail snappers to the joys of catching and eat-



This octopus has a fish under its mantle and the yellowtails can scent it, so the octopus has their full attention. The octopus isn't particularly worried, though; shortly after the picture was taken the octopus squeezed into a temporary den and enjoyed the fish. The yellowtails could only watch for scraps from the den entrance.

ing live lionfish. Just think how lionfish-free our reefs would be if yellowtails gobbled living lionfish as enthusiastically as they gobbled breakfast leftovers! *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. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire. or through touchthesea.com.*



If Grand Cayman's Stingray City had been named for its most populous marine creature, it would have a different name! Here, the stingrays know food will be forthcoming so they hang around. The yellowtails also know food is forthcoming, and -- at least when I was there -- they were able to gobble the food before the rays even realized it had been offered. Here, Wayne Hasson has the full attention of quite a few yellowtails!



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# Enter your photo



photo: Julie Morgan, 1996

porter. Also, the premier travel agency, Caradonna Dive , 1Adventures, will use some of the winning photos in their Bonaire advertising campaign for which you will receive photo credit. Oh, and you can win prizes too. They will be announced later.

There are two ways to win: people's choice award and by a panel of judges with amazing photography exper-

tise: Anna and Ned DeLoach, marine naturalists, authors of the Reef series books and cofounders of REEF.

Michael LaFortune photographer, owner of Sign Studio Bonaire and co-founder of A Plastic Free Bonaire.

Stephen Frink, one of the world's most frequently published UW photographers, publisher of Alert Diver, owns Waterhouse Photo Tours and main distributor for Seacam housings.

Ann Louise Tuke, former Bonaire resident, Sport Diver magazine editor, product developer for Caradonna Dive Adventures and original owner of Samur sailing charters.

The first day of the contest kicks off on Earth Day April 22, 2020 and runs through May 17. During that time upload your favorite images of Bonaire to [https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/?modal=admin_todo_tour) and click on the link for all the details. The winners will be announced in the May 20 issue. So upload your photos, vote for your favorites and tell your friends!

## Did You Know? that of all the plants surveyed in Slagbaai Plantation 75.5% were cacti?



Figure 2: Palu di Boneiru almost always grows straight and has white spots on the bark. Recognize it because of the serrated edges on the leaves. Beware! The fruit is poisonous

Between December 2019 and February 2020 STINAPA, with ECHO and support from Bon Bèrdè, completed the first round of our newly implemented dry forest monitoring program. After 32 hours of surveying trees and cacti, and countless thorns being pulled out of places we didn't even know thorns could get stick, we finished the 24 permanent plots set up in Slagbaai Plantation. We counted 5322 plants spread over 19 different species!

Bonaire's tropical dry forest often doesn't get as much attention as our coral reefs. And while the reefs are beautiful, the dry forest is no less impressive. We usually focus on the dry forest for its role in helping to maintain our reefs. And it's true, dry forests can be very

beneficial to helping maintain healthy and thriving reefs. They help prevent sediments and nutrients, both of which can be very bad for the reef, from entering the water. But dry forests are not just important because they protect the reefs. These highly threatened and fast disappearing, ecosystems also contain amazing animal and plant species and can be quite diverse. At one point in our history dry forests used to cover 42% of all tropical area. Now, less than 5% remains. Dry forests have been just as important to the culture and history of Bonaire as our reefs. It's where the Amerindians, and later the conquistadors, found shelter and food. They also played an important role in Bonaire's economy, both past and present.

Without our dry forest, we wouldn't have our terrestrial birds, such as the lora and the oriole, the iguanas, or the bats.

So, what were the results of the Slagbaai monitoring? While we only found four species of cactus, cacti were by far the most numerous plants in the park. Tuna, the large prickly pear variety, accounted for 41% of plants counted, while infrou, the smaller prickly pear, accounted for 31%. Trees accounted for only 24.5% of plants counted during the survey. The most abundant tree species in Slagbaai was palu di

**Did You Know - surveying the dry forest, continued on page 11**

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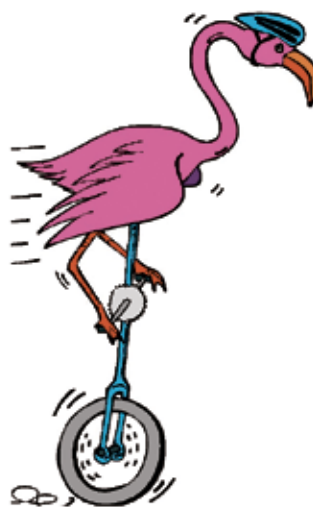
The Cadushy Shop is located in the main shopping street of Down Town Kralendijk.

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# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

## Our wheelchair challenges

### Accessible tourism..... really ???

to persons with physical challenges?

Horseback riding promotes a unique sense of freedom and mobility, allowing riders to imagine the future, and to enjoy the present, in a way they never thought possible. For volunteers, their interactions with the riders teaches them that people with disabilities can do anything they want to; they just have to do it a little differently. Horse Ranch Bonaire offers horseback riding tours to people with mild disabilities, handicaps and autism.

Every week, during cruise ship season, various ships come to Bonaire with thousands of people who want to see Bonaire. Tours are offered in buses, taxi's and Tuk Tuks, and the guests taking those tours do not seem to suffer from disabilities. One sees a few people being pushed around in a wheelchair and they are having a hard time getting around. Scooter-mobiles are a popular vehicle to get around in and easy to handle. Now wouldn't it be a great idea for a company to offer these vehicles for rent and take persons with disabilities on a tour through town?

Due to budget-cuts, wheelchair-buses are not being used. It would be a very good idea to adapt these cars to make them accessible for more than one wheelchair, get good tour guides and offer very special tours?

Do you own a business and do you want to offer special attention to elderly visitors with disabilities? Why don't you get all the info you need and set up a special business?

Bonaire does not need only able-bodied tourism, we also need special tourism. And that would mean that Bonaire is accessible for her own inhabitants with special needs as well.

After this corona-virus calms down, after the curve is flattened, we will need tourism more then ever. Call MiVaBo and let them know how you can help.

*Ria Evers-Dokter.*

## Earth Day

### continued from page 4

coral reefs from development. The film, 'Save Klein Bonaire' by Matt Sellers is a product of that effort that was ultimately successful. You can view it by Googling 'save klein bonaire' and selecting the video by that name. It is a prime example of how a group of dedicated individuals can come together from diverse backgrounds for a common purpose and be successful.

With thousands of excellent environmental success stories there are still environmental threats that need dedicated attention and action. While Global Climate Change is front and center, there remain several environmental issues that were and still are of grave concern and others that are of emerging concern. While you attack Global Climate Change with a vengeance keep in mind the following issues that need strong attention: particulate air pollutants, water pollution and toxic runoff, endangered species, habitat destruction, noise pollution at sea, light pollution, overuse of lawn and agriculture chemicals and over-tourism.

Whatever you do, enjoy nature this week, be it the sky, sea or land and investigate the abundant online offerings about the world's environments while committing to increasing your environmental action and advocacy this year. Planet Earth will thank you!

*George Buckley  
Environmental consultant  
120 times to Bonaire since 1976*

### Join an Earth Day Watch Party April 20 -27.

Films include Lowland Kids; Water Warriors; Chasing Coral, and Cooked, Survival by Zip Code.

[https://www.exposurelabs.com/earth-day?utm\\_term=0\\_e6dbebaea0-12b2777e84-336122809#film-suggestions](https://www.exposurelabs.com/earth-day?utm_term=0_e6dbebaea0-12b2777e84-336122809#film-suggestions)

Bonaire is thinking about a time after the intellectual lockdown and how to start up tourism and get the economics running again. Offering possibilities for the elderly looks like an interesting option. Imagine you are an elder and physically challenged. You can only get around in a wheelchair, scooter-mobile or a walker, and want to spend an active vacation on Bonaire. Is that really possible?

To get to Bonaire you have to fly in. Bonaire Airport Services are awaiting the purchase of suitable ramps to get on and off the aircraft.

The Wounded Warriors have been coming to Bonaire for many years. Divi Flamingo Resort and Captain Don's Habitat are very often their gracious hosts, because the hotels are handicap accessible.

Imagine you suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's Disease and the only way your partner can enjoy a vacation is to bring you along. Is that really possible?

Recently a small group of persons who suffer from Alzheimer's disease spent a lovely vacation with their partners in Hotel Harbour Village. The partners got every chance to enjoy a carefree vacation, while their partners with Alzheimers took part in a special program just for them.

Do you depend on your wheelchair or scooter-mobile and would like to take a tour around the island?

There are two motorbike clubs on the island. I can tell you from personal experience that the group came to our house with a bike with a side-car. They took my husband for a wonderful ride across Bonaire. So, there are possibilities. You may contact Orlando Francisca of Rento Fun.

Are there activities like horseback riding being offered



## A Garden? Just Do It!

### Sharing the harvest

A while ago I gave some new acquaintances, cassava (yuca) cuttings, to try on their kunuku. Overtime we became friends and one of our main topics of conversation was gardening. So a few weeks ago they told me they had harvested the yuca and also sweet potato and they sent me a picture. I was totally amazed at the amount of stuff they harvested. There was enough food for weeks. The best of all was they brought some of the harvest to me. Pure good stuff without any chemical treatment, grown in a healthy soil, picked by hand and used as soon as possible. On hundred percent vitamins and minerals, and that is just what we need the most these days.

I myself offered vegetables from my garden to friends. Yes, that is what gardeners do; when harvesting you share, you give and get, which makes friendships strong and nice.

And it's mango time again. I always know it when my backyard neighbors put mangos on the fence for me. Then I look up to the high tree and see a tree full of mangos. I find the sweetest most juicy ones I have ever eaten come from Bonaire.

I feel blessed having such nice people around me, not to talk about each other, but to share good things with each other.

Yes, I notice the island has a lot of fruit, if you only look. There are some people, who never see anything

and say that nothing grows on Bonaire. Besides mango, there is mispel (medlar: small, brown, apple-like fruits), a lot of dry coconuts, papaya, pomegranate, the first gujaba, carambola, seagrapes (still green), bacoba, chimaruku(cherries) and of course, trees full of ripe tamarind. In many yards, I see dry coconuts and tamarind getting rotten under the trees and unused pomegranate on trees. And who takes the time these days to pick the very healthy seagrapes known for their very high antioxidants? Who makes first class jam and marmalades from the gujabas? And what about the pure coconut oil or coconut cookies from the very healthy, fiber rich cholesterol coconut? Think of all the fresh homemade juices we can make of all this fruit. This is such pure good stuff and the best lessons for kids. How can we just let all that good stuff lay there to rot, while it's our medicine to keep our bodies healthy and strong? Your food should be your medicine, otherwise medicine will be your food.

Early in the morning, the first thing I do, is walk through the garden, looking around to see what is ready to consume. Sometimes its just one gujaba, or a few cherries or, two carambolas, some herbs, two peppers, three okras and so on. I have just a few plants of the vegetables I want and that is enough. When they are ready to pick, its enough for a day. And that is what gives gardeners a good, satisfied happy feeling with the harvest of the day. "Much" doesn't necessarily mean good, but even small packages of good give "much" value.

Of course, it takes effort and time to garden. I know how hard it is sometimes to get something out of the dry,



**From one of my neighbors I got fried mas bangu fish with funchi and salad that was good for two days. And I was a lucky one to receive from Bonaire Logistic a bag of fruit and vegetables. They along with other companies offered this food to the Bonaire society due to the consequences of the coronavirus.**

rocky soil in this climate. But there are many ways to garden, and I have written about most of them, for example, hydroponics gardening from the last issue.

After a while, when fruit trees are some bigger, they grow by themselves and don't need much attention anymore. But watch how much fun it is when you can pick your fruit right there in your garden. It tastes better than any fruit you have bought.

So look at my picture. Make your yard green, plant at least one tree and support the idea to make Mother Earth GREEN again. Just do it now!! *Angliet, Nature lover.*



# What's Happening



**Bonaire schools and library may be closed but that doesn't mean the kids can't find a book to read.**

The Mediabus is in operation everyday with Daryl Janga and Joamy Martis giving a hand to kids ages 3 and up wishing to find the perfect book. Some books are for lending and there are even some free ones!

The bus doors are open Monday – Friday 12 to 3pm in the front parking lot at MVO and Saturday and Sunday from 10am – 12pm in the Van der Tweel parking lot.



## Breast screening project postponed

Fundashon Mariadal's crisis team has postponed the Screening for Breast Cancer pilot project until further notice.

Although invitations for pilot project screening can't be honored at present, the project's staff emphasizes that women who have health complaints concerning their breasts should contact their family doctor immediately.

You can still register for the population screening. As soon as the pilot project starts again, the project staff will contact you. Register by email, app or by phone:

[www.screeningcancerdemama.com](http://www.screeningcancerdemama.com)  
+599 7810476 /  
[info@screeningkansernapechu.com](mailto:info@screeningkansernapechu.com)

The temporary halt of the pilot has two important consequences. Firstly, it will help Bonaire free up its hospital's care capacity for residents who may become infected with the corona virus and need hospitalization. Secondly, it reduces the risk of infections with the coronavirus as lab technicians and clients come into close contact with each other while taking breast X-rays.

## Restaurants: Who's open-who's not

Restaurant	Open for guests	Hours	Take-away	Where to find menu & contact info
Peanuts Fresh Market Cafe	Yes	10am-4pm	Yes	<a href="http://Peanutsbonaire.com/order-online">Peanutsbonaire.com/order-online</a>
Karel's Beach Bar	Yes	8am-10 pm	Yes	Website / facebook
Avocados by Boudoir	Yes	8am-5pm, Wed. til 3pm.	Yes	during the regular opening hours, <a href="http://www.bonaireboudoir.com">www.bonaireboudoir.com</a>
Burger Bar	Yes	5pm-10pm Wed.closed	Yes	<a href="http://www.bonaireboudoir.com">www.bonaireboudoir.com</a>
KFC Bonaire	No	Sun-Thurs. 11am-11pm Fri & Sat til midnight	Yes	Menu on KFC Bonaire FB page; and for \$1 Deliveries, <a href="http://www.dinnerinbox-bonaire.com">www.dinnerinbox-bonaire.com</a>
Kite City	Yes	11am-4pm	Yes 12-2pm	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/kitecity-bonaire/?ref=bookmarks">https://www.facebook.com/kitecity-bonaire/?ref=bookmarks</a> and phone 701 2782
Exito in Playa	Yes	7am-2:30 pm	Yes	Call 599 717 8822. We have a daily changing menu
Krispy Chicks & Burgers	Yes	11am-8pm	Yes	Beef, chicken, vegetarian, hamburgers, salads. Call 785-2100
Between 2 Buns	No	7am-5pm Sat 8-4; Sun. closed	Yes & delivery	Menu is on FB page. Call 717 1723
Posada Paramira	Yes	11:30am -4pm	Yes	FB page Posada Paramira
Osaka Japanese Fusion Restaurant	Yes	Tues.-Thurs. 6-10pm	Yes 6-9pm	<a href="http://www.osakabonaire.com">www.osakabonaire.com</a>
Rum Runners	No	5-9pm for take out	Yes	pizza on website, weekly changing take out menu on FB
CarreFour in Hato	No	10:30am – 11:30pm	Yes	782-6188
CHEFS	No		No	
Cuba Compagnie	Yes	7 days 5-10pm	Yes	Sit down, takeaway and free delivery Call +599-717-1822
Brass Boer	No			
Bobbejans	No			
Gios	Yes	everyday 8am - 10pm		Gelato, coffee
Luciano	Yes	everyday 7:30am - 10pm		Ice cream, coffee
It Rains Fishes	Yes	Mon - Fri, Lunch 11-3 Dinner 5-9	Yes	Sit down, take away and free delivery
Donna & Giorgio	Yes	Lunch Tues-Sat Dinner Tues; Thurs-Sat.	Yes	Reservations for outside seating (four tables only)

**Hard to find a printed copy of The Reporter?**

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## Buena vista Optics

Dear Customers

Because of the threat of the corona virus we have unfortunately made the decision as of March 19th to temporarily close the store.

We have made this decision because of the close contact we give with our clients. We can't guarantee safety of your or our health.

For questions or emergencies, you can send an email to [buenavistaoptics@gmail.com](mailto:buenavistaoptics@gmail.com)

Please also include your phone number so we can contact you as soon as possible.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience and ask for your understanding for this difficult decision.

Managing board and staff Buena Vista Optics.

## Advertisers' Hours: some changed-some not

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**Carib Inn** - Usually open from 8-12 or call for repairs or shop open by appointment 717-8819

**Cadushy** - closed

**De Freewieler** - open regular hours Mon - Fri 8:30-12:30/ 2-5 & Sat 8:30-12 or call 717-8545

**Denture Prosthetist** - Repair or Pain assistance by appointment only. add phone number For Dutch and English 796 3714 Papiamentu and Spanish. 700 1271

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• Reef - 9 to 12 and 2-4; 599-787-3860

**Ezone** - Hours the same Open Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm and Saturday 10am - 2pm. Contact: [Bonaire@getezone.com](mailto:Bonaire@getezone.com) 599-717-6161.

**RE/MAX** - The office is closed and open only by appt. All agents are available via email.

**Rocargo** - Call 717-8922 or email for pick-up and delivery [warehouse@rocargo.com](mailto:warehouse@rocargo.com); invoices or payments email [frontdesk@rocargo.com](mailto:frontdesk@rocargo.com)

**Rum Runners** - open for take out and delivery. We have pizzas and weekly changing limited menu Hours are 5pm till 9pm

**Sunbelt** - Our office is 'manned' between 08:30 - 17:30 to answer phone calls and e-mails.

**Yoga Sensibile** - online class via Zoom 8am (AST) MWF. (contact Elisabetta +599 7807362 [betta@web.de](mailto:betta@web.de))



# At Your Service

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

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# Shelter News

Due to the current measures in place on the island, Animal Shelter Bonaire is temporarily changing their open hours. Until further notice, the Shelter is open from

9am to 3pm by appointment only. Please contact us at 701-4989, Whatsapp or via FB Messenger to make an appointment.

## Urgently seeking donations: Covid-19 impact on Animal Shelter Bonaire



The Covid-19 pandemic has created crises around the world. We sincerely hope that all Bonaire Reporter readers and loved ones are safe and well and that the impact on you has been minimal. We are grateful to readers who have helped Animal Shelter Bonaire in the past, and hope that we can count on you again in this difficult time.

Because of the international pandemic, Bonaire's borders are closed. No tourists or visitors can enter, no residents can return. All flights and cruise ships to the island have been suspended indefinitely. Restaurants and retailers are closed. While this has been beneficial to the physical health of our island, it has created an economic hardship for many.

The Animal Shelter Bonaire is greatly impacted by this lock down. In 2019, approximately half of our necessary operating funds were generated by tourist/visitor related endeavors: the cruise market crafts booth, donation boxes in businesses and restaurants, hotel happy hour sales and donations, t-shirt sales, and the Pakus di Pruga sales (second hand store). As of March 2020, all of these sources of funding have ceased and it is unknown when the tourist/visitor trade will return to Bonaire. The Pakus di Pruga is inter-

mittently open, however the sales are significantly reduced as the livelihood of much of the local population is severely impacted by the lock down. They have very little disposable income to make purchases.

Because of these events, we are uncertain as to how long we can survive. While many of you may also be impacted financially by the Covid-19 pandemic, we reach out to those of you who may be more fortunate to ask for your help. If you are able to make a donation to Animal Shelter Bonaire in any amount (as little as \$5.00) it will help towards paying for the cost of the food, care, and medical needs of our current resident animals, continue with our free sterilizations, and allow us to continue accept animals that arrive due to the economic situation of the island's human population and other reasons.

Please help us continue to operate. You can make a donation in any amount in person at the shelter (cash, credit or debit card), via our website <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com> with PayPal or European credit card, or you can make a bank transfer to our bank account on Bonaire or in the Netherlands.

This is an extraordinary time for all of us, which is why we take this extraordinary measure of asking your for help. We really need you right now!

**Maduro & Curiel's Bank, Bonaire Branch**  
Beneficiary Account: Animal Shelter Bonaire/Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire  
Account # 10237800

Beneficiary Address: Kaminda Lagun 26, Kralendijk, Bonaire  
Bank Address: Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #70, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands  
SWIFT/BIC: MCBKBQBN

**Rabobank (Dongen, Netherlands)**  
IBAN Number: NL40 RABO  
Beneficiary Account: 0137 7487 44



Jane Madden-Disko

Sanne Attevelt

Travis Sullins

Amy Weir

## Pet of the Week: Happy

Hello all,

Are you bored being at home and all your extra tasks are done? Then it's time to bring some Happy into your home... and surprise, that is me! Yes, my name is Happy and I will make you Happy if you make me Happy so we can all be Happy! I am one year and eight months old, vaccinated, spayed and I've been at the Shelter since I was three months old. I have a foxy look with a curly tail. I love to play fetch or just chew on my coconut. Being lazy is also okay as I can sleep or just relax for hours. But I do really like to go out for walks, and I am pretty well trained to walk very nicely on a leash. Do you want to be my companion for life? Then you will make me very Happy and I will give you back double Happiness! Please make an appointment to come



and meet me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda lagun 26A, call 7014989 or 7174989 or contact the Animal Shelter by Whatsapp or Facebook Messenger. See you soon I hope!

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

## Did You Know-surveying the dry forest, continued from page 7



Figure 1: *Opuntia currasavica* (infrou) on the left, *Opuntia carcassana* (tuna) on the right

Boneiru, Casearia tremula (6.4%), closely followed by palu di lele, *Randia aculeata* (6.1%), and liki loki, *Phyllanthus botryanthus*, (5.4%).

Looking at the park as a whole, we see that a handful of species, four to be exact, dominate most of the vegetation. These are tuna, infrou, palu di lele and palu di Boneiru. Only in four of our plots was the dominant plant not one of these species. Many ecologically important species, that are food and shelter for native animals, were also found, but not all. We know that over 60 species occur in the park, but only 19 of these were in our plots. The rarest trees found were palu di sia kora, *Bursera simaruba*, and wabi, *Vachellia tortuosa*. Of each of these we only found one individual. Luckily no invasive plant species, such as neem or palu di lechi, were found in any of our plots.

So what does this say about the overall state of the vegetation of Slagbaai? Of all the trees found, a little under half were mature individuals and only 10% were saplings. This could be an indication of high grazing pressure in the park. But, we will have to wait and see how this trend develops in the coming years.

We also looked at the total biodiversity in the park using a biodiversity index. This index looks at the total number of plants and how evenly they are distributed over the total number of species. For instance, in a plot with five plants, each of a different species, the biodiversity would be high. But in a plot with 10 plants all of the same species the biodiversity would be low. Overall the biodiversity in the park was pretty low. However, because we don't know what Bonaire's vegetation used to look like in the past we can't say if this value was low or high for Bonaire. Interestingly most of the higher biodiversity areas seemed to be in the Southwestern part of Slagbaai. This part also contained two of the plots not dominated by one of the four dominant species.

In the next rainy season we will be monitoring Washington Plantation. It will be interesting to see how the two areas of the park compare. We will be sure to keep you updated!

Roxanne-Liana Francisca. STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature.

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# Kralendijk, Kaya Gob. Debrot

## Highlights:

- centrally located
- excellent location for business
- commercial and residential use
- 4 building lots
- freehold land (registered 4-D-324, 4-D-1451, 4-D-1452 and 4-D-1759)
- total ground area: 6,039/ 561 sq.ft /m2

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 279,000** Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk  
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean



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## COVID-19 MEASURE & TO MINIMIZE INTERACTION:

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- PICKUP & DELIVERY ON APPOINTMENT ONLY E-MAIL: [WAREHOUSE@ROCARGO.COM](mailto:WAREHOUSE@ROCARGO.COM)





# COVID-19 updates

April 29 2020

## Flight Ban Extended to May 15th.

### ARTICLE I

The Temporary Prohibition of Civil Aviation Airspace Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba Regulation in connection with the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 is amended as follows.

### A

The second paragraph of Article 2 is replaced by the following:

2. The prohibition, referred to in the first paragraph, applies to air traffic originating from the following countries that are a high risk for the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19: the countries of the European Union;

- b. The United Kingdom;
- c. Brazil;
- d. the United States;
- e. Canada;
- f. Dominican Republic;
- g. Colombia.

### B

In Article 3, "applies until Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 6:00 PM local time" is re-placed by "applies until Friday, May 15, 2020, 6:00 PM local time."

**OPENBAAR LICHAAM BONAIRE** **Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland**

- The coronavirus is **unpredictable**. Therefore decisions can be adjusted.
- The RIVM confirms; **the virus is already contagious 1 to 2 days before any symptoms appear.**
- Therefore **central accommodation** for the repatriation of residents.
- The location will be **secured**. By violation penalties will follow.
- The assigned buddy's will provide in all basic needs en will stick to **strict social distancing protocols and hygiene.**

An expert for every task

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## Facts and figures on the coronavirus on Bonaire

The current figures on April 24<sup>th</sup>:

Number tested\*

**228**

\*Including Drive-Thru

Number infected

**2**

Number in quarantine

**90**

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## Important phone numbers | Social support for families

*On working days, during office hours*



Do you have any questions about the coronavirus?

[rijksdienstcn.com/covid-19](https://rijksdienstcn.com/covid-19)  
0800-1351 (free)



Do you want to talk about stress at home and dealing with children?

**Centre Youth & Family**  
701-5257



Are you worried about the safety of children?

**JGCN**  
715-7201



Would you like to talk to someone from your district team?

**District Team**  
717-1714



Does your family need a food package?  
Or are you unable to pay childcare, WEB, rent (house), internet?

[yudami@bonairegov.com](mailto:yudami@bonairegov.com)  
0800-1351 (free)



Do you need help with reading, writing or filling out papers?

**Fundashon Forma**  
+599 785-7314 (call or WhatsApp)



For acute reports of domestic violence, child abuse or other emergencies.

**CALL 911**

(available 24/7)



Are you victim of a crime and do you need emotional support?

**Victim Support Office**  
717-6181

*Protect yourself and people around you*

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