



Building a new tourism together

When Covid 19 hit, Bonaire tourism came to a screeching halt. Everyone wondered, ‘What are we going to do now?’

It has been three months of no passenger planes full of stay-over tourists or monster cruise ships bringing 1000’s of people for a day in Bonaire. With this break from tourism, Bonaire has been given a second chance to change direction in their tourism plan. And time to re-evaluate what we are doing to the island and nature.

In a meeting on June 12, tour operators, taxis and tent holders, the groups directly involved with cruise ships, were invited to co-create the future of a Bonaire tourism recovery plan.

Opening the meeting Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe said, it is time to create a better product for Bonaire and a better, smarter tourism industry to make Bonaire better. He said in regard to the “monsters in the harbor,” (as the governor calls the cruise ships) we have to go to totally high-end ships. So they bring better quality guests.

Hennyson Thielman, assistant to deputy Tjin-Asjoe, led the discussion and attendees made their various suggestions after hearing from several speakers.

Harbor Master Gunther Flanigen told the crowd that the cruise ship lines aren’t ready. All cruise ships were suspended after the CDC director issued a No Sail Order for cruise ships on March 14, 2020 due to Covid 19.



The ‘monsters in the harbour’ aren’t expected until sometime next year or even longer according to harbour master Flanigen.

He gave recent data saying in surveys that 60.6 percent of people polled in the US, said they would never take a cruise again. But 14.4 percent said they would begin travelling immediately to the Caribbean if allowed by June 15.

Protective measures must be taken by both cruise ship lines and ports to prevent the spread of infection. Procedures for monitoring, screening, and testing must be established. Rules concerning personal protective equipment, social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting must be made clear. Additionally, the authorities must

manage risks during embarkation/ disembarkation. Then, if there is a problem with someone showing Covid 19 symptoms, authorities must agree on the measures that must be taken regarding isolation, disembarkation and exposure to others.

“The health risks that accompany cruise ships visiting Bonaire are real. What do we do if there is a virus? Where do they go, Miami? The risk is viable and we don’t know how to deal with it,” said Flanigen.

Flanigen did not foresee cruise ships coming in the months ahead and that it would probably be January or maybe even a year before they came again.

In the meantime, how can the tour industry be helped, questioned Thielman.

He and others suggested offering more tours to appeal to the stay-over tourists, including night tours, early morning trips, hiking and even concessions on Klein Bonaire.

To this Tjin-Asjoe said, “As long as I am deputy there will be no development or concessions on Klein.”

Other ideas for tours included:

- Guided shore dives to ensure protection of the reefs from novice divers.
- Partnering with the hotels, fishermen, and experts on culture and history.
- Salt company tours by certified guides

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Flamingo International about to get busy again

Bonaire's airspace, closed to most passenger flights since mid-March, will open again to tourist arrivals on 1 July 2020—subject to restrictions. One flight per week will be allowed at first, increasing to four flights per week in August. KLM and TUI are now accepting bookings.

Initially Bonaire will allow only 1,000 tourists per week, only from Europe, and only from the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Germany, countries with relatively few corona infections. Italy and Croatia could be added to the list shortly. Visitors must have tested negative for COVID19 within 72 hours of their departure.

After arrival visitors can move freely on the island. However, if they don't feel well or display COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay in their hotel or vacation home and contact the Public Health department immediately. If the Department decides they should be tested, they must remain in their room until the test result is known. They must also have travel and accident insurance that covers additional medical costs on Bonaire. The OLB will not be responsible for passengers who cannot return to their country of origin.

Trial flights have been arriving from Schiphol since Thursday, 11 June, carrying students and emigrants from the Netherlands. On arrival passengers are tested at the airport and are subject to monitored at home quarantine. Their final destination must be Bonaire. Passengers in transit are not allowed.

People can now travel both ways between Curaçao to Bonaire. A so-called "bubble" has been created within which it is deemed safe to travel from one island to another. Passengers from Curaçao who come to Bonaire do not have to be quarantined, but they must adhere to generally applicable preventive measures (such as social distancing). If they have complaints related to COVID-19, they must report immediately to the Public Health department and provide their address and telephone number.

Bonaire has proposed to form a bubble with Aruba, but Aruba has yet to agree. Bonaire has stipulated that its airspace would again be closed to Aruba if Aruba starts allowing passengers to enter from the U.S.

Unrestricted travel to and from St. Eustatius and Saba is not yet allowed.

The Public Health department and the CTB have established rules for tourist facilities, and the public body Bonaire (OLB) wants travelers to be mindful of their own responsibilities regarding social distancing and hygiene measures. Travel remains a risky business; many countries still have sources of contamination. *DMR*

Bonaire COVID restrictions eased



At the meeting of the Island Policy Team (EBT) on June 10, 2020, the Lieutenant Governor decided to withdraw the emergency ordinance. This means, among other things, that sporting events are allowed to resume, although a permit is needed to organize tournaments. People from the Netherlands and other low-risk areas who are still in quarantine may now go home. Everyone should continue to follow hygiene and social distancing instructions and avoid gathering in large groups of people in small, insufficiently ventilated spaces. *DMR*

OM apologizes to Booi and the El Hages

On June 9, Bote Ter Steege, chief public prosecutor on Bonaire, apologized on behalf of the Public Prosecution Service (OM) in a personal conversation with former politicians, Ramonsito Booi, Burney El Hage and El Hage's wife.

Earlier this year, the National Ombudsman, Mr Reinier van Zutphen, ruled that the Public Prosecution Service made "mistakes and wrong choices" in a criminal case against the prominent ex-politician from Bonaire, Ramonsito Booi, and should acknowledge its errors and apologize.

The criminal investigations in question began on September 8, 2009 under the name Fiji and continued with the Zambesi investigation into fraud and money laundering accusations against several politicians, including Booi. The case ended in 2015 with an acquittal.

Chinese oil purchases keeping Venezuela afloat

According to Reuters, China imported an average of 350,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Venezuela through the first six months of 2019, replacing the United States as Venezuela's best customer. The shipments slowed down when the U.S. sanctions threatened to kick in, then ended by late 2019. But only on paper.

In the meantime, the State-owned China National Petroleum Corp had started buying Venezuelan crude that had been transferred ship-to-ship off the coast of Malaysia, then delivered to China under new documentation that declared it was pumped in Malaysia.

Between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2019, tanker ships delivered at least 18 shipments totaling 19.7 million barrels of rebranded Venezuelan crude to Chinese ports, Reuters determined, and the traffic has presumably continued. It helped Venezuela keep its oil industry alive at a time when the drop in demand from foreign buyers was creating a glut onshore, nearly forcing PDVSA

to halt production in key oil fields.

The shipping method - involving the transfer of oil between tanker ships at sea - has for months been under scrutiny by the Trump administration. Venezuelan and Chinese officials have repeatedly described U.S. sanctions on their country as illegal and unilateral.

Recently Venezuela starting buying refined fuels from Iran. *DMR*

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Black Lives Matter protest held on Bonaire

Sparked by the killing of George Floyd by a US police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, people worldwide have taken to the streets in anti-racist protests. Bonaire joined the protests on June 10 at Wilhelmina Plaza initiated and led by Guerlian Gougon of Bonaire.

Gougon grew up on the island but attended high school and later attended the University of Pennsylvania.

Wearing a Black Lives Matter t-shirt, Gougon said he has been fighting for black rights forever. To make this peaceful protest happen, he first made an application to the Governor's Cabinet and then met with the police and Governor Rijna. The permit was granted the day before the rally with the conditions that it would be confined to the plaza and social distancing would be enforced.

The rally itself, didn't really get started until 6 pm though scheduled to start at 4pm. People of all colors wandered in and out of the area so the total number of persons at any time was approximately 50. Some were wearing the dress code of black and carrying signs and/or t-shirts with black lives matter slogans.

A number of speakers were scheduled including Gougon, Clark Abraham, Deputy Nina den Heyer, Ralph Nolan and Arjen de Wolff.

Attendee Jane Disko said, "There was a wonderful, although gut-wrenching time, when everyone took a knee in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. You have no idea how long that really is until you spend that time in silence doing nothing except remembering. Very emotional."

Eight minutes and forty-six seconds is the exact time that officer Chauvin had his knee on Floyd's neck. And, two of those minutes and 53 seconds were while Floyd was non-responsive.



The demonstration was initiated and led by Guerlian Gougon of Bonaire.

Gougon said, "Discrimination wasn't that big 20 years ago [on Bonaire]. Since 2010, everything changed. It's not nice to be treated that way."

One of the first things Gougon wants to do is take away

the Dutch Federation plaque that stands in the plaza. He says the Dutch never said they were sorry or showed respect to the slaves.



Black Lives Matter, continued on page 10

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Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Bonaire Reporter.

Protecting Bolivia from land development

“Bolivia serves as an important ‘land bridge’ connecting the northern and southern halves of the island. If this ‘bridge’ is severed, as would happen if the area is developed, native species of both flora and fauna would be fragmented and be at even greater risk of extinction.” (CARMABI Report- February 1998)

Much like protected areas of Klein Bonaire and Washington-Slagbaai National Park, the unspoiled natural area along Bonaire’s rugged east coast known as Bolivia is a kingdom treasure that deserves protection and preservation. Home to flora and fauna not found elsewhere, this natural landscape houses a diverse and fragile ecosystem. Just as the marine park defines and protects an irreplaceable part of Bonaire’s natural landscape, the same protection should be granted to Bolivia to preserve this one-of-a-kind area.

It isn’t just eco-minded island residents who understand the environmental importance of protecting Bolivia from development. For the next few months we will publish 22 environmental reports (1998 to present), that all attest to the uniqueness of the ecosystem found at Bolivia on Bonaire.

Unfortunately, local island history suggests that when protection decisions like this fall to a small number of local politi-

cians, who are extremely susceptible to local political and economic pressures, development consistently trumps preservation. This is especially true when the financial gain of prominent island individuals rests on the decision to approve development at all costs.

This inherent conflict-of-interest is why the protection of Bolivia requires kingdom-level intervention to achieve designation as a permanent national park. Leaving this decision to the island government is an invitation to continue more of the historic same, where development is pursued with little to no thought to the island’s long-term environmental health.

The time is now to declare Bolivia a special place worth saving. The time is now to begin the process to make this area a national park that is revered and protected like Washington-Slagbaai and Klein Bonaire. We are the environmental stewards for future generations. As such, we must take a stand against the greed and corruption that often accompanies development projects of the scope proposed for this historic and revered area. We owe it to dushi Bonaire to take a stand and put long-term environmental protection for everyone’s enjoyment over short-term profit for a few. *Signed: Save Plantation Bolivia*

Editor’s note: For the next few months we will publish 22 environmental reports (1998 to present), that attest to the uniqueness of Bolivia’s ecosystem. See page 11.

burg—into privately owned residential lots. Knops is said to have been given preferential treatment because the land he received to build his house totaled 1,175m², while other individuals were allocated only 1,000m². Knops has responded that all the lots were sold at a set price, not a price per metre, and some buyers receive larger plots, some smaller.

It’s difficult to know how seriously to take this investigation, given that the purported benefit to Knops from the transaction was only 175m² of re-cycled pig sty. *DMR*

State Secretary Raymond Knops accused of corruption

According to the BES Reporter, “In light of the recent revelation implicating Dutch State Secretary Raymond Knops in a questionable land deal, leader of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) Clyde Van Putten on Monday called the revelation ‘disgusting and grossly unethical’.”

The accusation results from a government financed program to convert unused agricultural land—in this case, former pig farms in the province of Lim-

Bonaire contributed to the SpaceX success

Last month SpaceX launched its first private spacecraft and transported two astronauts to the orbiting International Space Station. A company owned by a pair of long-term Bonaire residents contributed significantly to the construction of the craft.

To manufacture a rocket, it has to be made as light as possible so that the engines can be powerful enough to boost the rocket out of the earth’s atmosphere and to resist its gravitational pull.

Many components of the spacecraft were made of titanium, a very strong met-

al that is resistant to corrosion and high temperatures. It is seven times lighter than steel. Titanium must be welded carefully; otherwise oxygen and nitrogen in the surrounding air corrodes and weakens the joints. The company owned by the Bonaire residents (who asked not to be named) manufactures products that shield the metal while it is being welded.

DMR

The SpaceX launch. The residents’ company supported SpaceX and their subcontractors throughout the build of the spacecraft. Photo by company’s local manager.



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@bonaire-homes.com

Tests conducted on Texel will help Bonaire grow crops locally



Research is being conducted on Texel Island in the Netherlands to identify saline resistant food crops that could be grown on Bonaire. The Salt Farm Foundation has opened a test facility on Wadden Island that includes a tunnel greenhouse in which the heat of Bonaire is simulated and brackish water is used for irrigation.

The Executive Council welcomed the initiative, which will help Bonaire move in the direction of agricultural self-sufficiency as envisioned in the 2018-2022 Administrative Agreement. “It was our ambition to promote local agriculture because it is much more sustainable and healthier and makes us less dependent on foreign suppliers. The corona crisis con-

firms the need to produce fresh produce locally as much as possible.”

Founder of the Salt Farm Foundation, Marc van Rijsselberghe, was on Bonaire in February. He gave a presentation to several dozen kunukeros who are participating in a trial with seeds that are currently being tested on Texel. The foundation is also researching the cultivation of seaweed as a raw material for fertilizer, which is an expensive import for farmers on Bonaire. The foundation was created to share knowledge with smallholder farmers, to contribute to poverty reduction, and to develop solutions for the effects of climate change, especially in areas where food shortages exist. *DMR*



Stichting project appoints new director



Everyone is very happy with. She has been working with me for a long time and is very motivated. I am happy to hand it over to someone from Bonaire, a woman and someone who is very knowledgeable and very involved. I will support her and advise if necessary.”

The orthopedagogical* center of the Stichting Project, Forsa, guides and treats young people with attachment problems or an attachment disorder:

The intensity of the treatment at Forsa depends on the severity of the young person’s problems. The treatment options offered through Forsa range from long-term stay; to day /schooling programs; to after-school treatment; and finally, to family counseling; and outpatient counseling.

Mick Schmit will remain with the foundation as trainer, coach and advisor. He is also the developer and manager of the Forsa approach and he is setting up the Sociogroep therapist course.

(*Orthopedagogy is defined as the teaching of correct behaviour.)

Police accused of excessive force

Following the example of demonstrators in the U.S., Bonaireans have gathered recently to display their support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Two excessive force accusations have been made against the police as well, something new to the island.

In one case, bystanders threw glass bottles and other objects at KPCN officers as they were arresting a man who was resisting. The man is known to the police as a firearm hazard and had resisted arrests previously.

In the second case, a complainant said a police vehicle hit him on his moped, causing him to lose control and fall during the night hours from May 30 to 31, 2020. After a well-known radio station on Bonaire broadcast his account of the event, many people sent negative reactions to the KPCN. When the police investigated the man’s accusation, the accused officers said the police vehicle did not collide with the moped. Images from cameras confirmed their report. *DMR*

Two bicycles were stolen between Friday, June 5, around 7pm and Saturday, June 6, around 8 am. The bikes stood in a bicycle rack at an apartment complex on Kaya Princess Marie.



Police report for June 3 to 15, 2020

Property crime

On Wednesday, June 3, between 3:30pm and 5:00pm on Tuesday, June 2, equipment was stolen from a company bus: a Milwaukee breaker, Makita grinder, and two DeWalt drill sets. The bus was parked in front of a house on Kaya Landgraaf.

Between Thursday, June 4, around 9:45pm and Friday, June 5, at around 1:00pm thieves stole parts of a Kymco Agility scooter. The scooter was at an apartment complex on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The front fairing, battery, CDI (computer) and headlight were removed.

Between Friday, June 5, around 7pm and Saturday, June 6, around 7 am various tools were stolen from a house under construction on Kaya Tinashi. The tools were stored in the bathroom, which was closed with a piece of ‘concrete plex.’

On Wednesday, June 10 between Tuesday, June 9, about 5:30pm, and Wednesday, June 10, at about 7am, an outboard motor was stolen from a site on Kaya Feniks that serves as a storage place for kite and car rental companies. The site is fenced and was locked by a chain lock.

Arrests

On Tuesday, June 2, a woman, 35, was arrested for assault.

On Wednesday, June 3, a man, 33, was detained for threats of violence and destruction.

On the night of Friday, June 5, to Saturday, June 6, a stabbing involving two people took place at around 2am at an entertainment venue on Hanchi Amboina. A man, 27, has been arrested.

In the night hours of Sunday, June 7 to Monday, June 8, a man, 28, was detained for insulting an on-duty police officer and public intoxication.

In the morning hours of Thursday, June

11, a man, 36, was arrested for threats and assault.

In the night of Friday, June 12 to Saturday, June 13, the Center area was busy. After a chase, a man, 29, and a man, 21, were arrested. Those present gathered together during the arrest, causing the police to take tough action. KPCN is aware of the images circulating on social media. The case is being investigated.

In the afternoon hours on Saturday, June 13, a man was arrested in Kaya Lily for abuse with a weapon.

On the same day, Saturday, June 13, a man, 27, was detained at Kaya Comanche for assault.

On Saturday, June 13, around 1:20 am, two cars were checked that were parked in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant on Kaya Antonia. In one of the cars a bag with 23 pills, probably XTC, was found. All three occupants of this car were arrested for violating the BES Opium Act: a man, 20, and two boys, both aged 16.

Just before 9 pm on Saturday, June 13, the police reported that a seriously injured woman was on the street in Kaya Kalypso. The lady was taken to the hospital by ambulance. During the night hours of Saturday June 13 to Sunday June 14, the suspect in this case, a man, 34, reported himself to the police station and was arrested.

In the early morning hours of Sunday June 14, a stabbing took place at a house on Kaya Otomac. The victim, a man, 39, was rushed to the hospital by ambulance. Later, in the afternoon hours, the victim died. A little later a lady, 26, was held in connection with this stabbing. Investigation in this matter is ongoing. The police request anyone who has seen anything to phone the police at 717 8000 or 717 7251.

Traffic accidents & violations

At about 6:15pm, a man, 18, was detained on Kaya Barakua for failing to comply with a police order and endangering traffic.

During traffic controls at various locations, reports were issued for driving without insurance, without a valid license plate and driving without a license. A car was seized on Kaya Princess Marie after the driver had received three official reports for driving without a license.

On Saturday June 6 at approximately 1am, a collision took place on Kaya Korona. Two of those involved were taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Thursday June 11, around 11:30pm, a one-sided collision with a scooter took place on the E.E.G. Bulevar. The driver of the scooter fell for an unknown reason. He rode on without a helmet and sustained a head injury. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

In the morning hours on Friday, June 12, traffic controls were held at various locations, with official reports being issued for driving without a helmet, seat belt, valid insurance documents, or a valid driving license; and for using a mobile while driving.

On Sunday, June 14, a car and a scooter collided at Kaya Korona around 5pm. The car drove south and wanted to turn left. The scooter driving north could not brake in time and crashed into the side of the car. The driver of the scooter fell and injured his left arm.

The driver of both the car and the scooter received a report for driving without valid insurance.

Public safety

In the early morning hours of Saturday, June 13, at about 7:50am, the central police reported that a diver had gotten into trouble at the dive site Porta Spaño near Boka Spelonk. The ambulance was un-

able to reach the site. The police patrol drove to the location and took the victim in a stable side position to the ambulance waiting on the main road. Due to the fast acting of the officers on duty, the diver could be helped in time at the hospital.



The criminal investigation department confiscated 30 cannabis plants found during a house search in Bario Mexico on Tuesday June 9, 2020. The case and a man, 50, are under investigation.

How to contact the Dutch Caribbean Police Force

If every second counts:
emergency number 911 (free)
If you want to give an (anonymous) tip,
phone (+599) 717 7251

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

Bonaire Animal Shelter says thank you

A thank you send off party was held for the crew of the Seahawk at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on June 14. The boat first arrived on March 12, and then found themselves 'stuck' on Bonaire due to Covid 19.

As animal lovers, the Seahawk owners Adam and Gisela Alpert and their crew made the best of their time providing donations and an unbelievable amount of help to the shelter.

In just three months time, they have funded and built a Puppy Village, a Meet and Greet dog introduction area for family members, and two new boarding kennels. They have also re-modeled the play areas and redone the parking lot.

Seahawk Captain Henry Bardsley designed the projects and was at the Shelter everyday to supervise the work. He said he knew it could be



Bonaire Animal Shelter staff, board members, volunteers, Alwin Lintharst of Koraal Bouw, Grannie, Roxy and Quinn said thank you and farewell to the Seahawk crew for their amazing generosity and hard work. Photo taken in the new 600 sq ft 'Meet and Greet' area at the shelter funded by Seahawk owners Adam and Gisela Alpert and their Seahawk crew.

Shelter says thank you, continued on page 16

Picture Yourself with The Reporter Angel Fire, New Mexico, USA



Craig Williamson writes: Here's a photo of myself that was taken on February 13, 2020 at Angel Fire Ski Area in Angel Fire, New Mexico. I have been a snowboarder for over 30 years. The elevation of the photograph is about 10,000 feet higher than the dive lockers of Bonaire. I got my C-card in 1972 but I had been diving several years prior to that.

I first started diving in Bonaire in 1987 and have been a timeshare owner at Divi Flamingo since that time. I remember the old divemasters, biologists, and locals with great fondness.

Besides the diving and the locals, I love that Bonaire has no stoplights and no high rises. That's very unique and I hope that never changes. Viva Bonaire! *Craig Williamson & Alice Sterkel (the photographer and long time Bonaire dive buddy ♥), Missouri and New Mexico*

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 the 2019 submissions that we were unable to run will be published in 2020. All photos run in 2020 photos are eligible for the annual prize.



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that a squid has three hearts and a brain shaped like a doughnut that wraps around its esophagus?



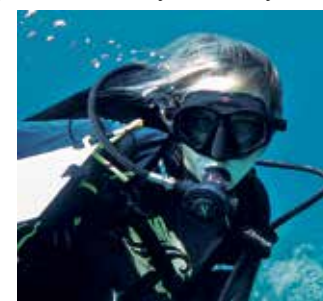
Wikipedia commons – Caribbean Reef Squid –
Photo Nick Hobgood

To do this, we would spend long days, (sometimes up to six hours!), snorkeling along the coast looking for them. We wanted to see how they would react to different predators and how they communicated these dangers to other squid in their shoal. To do this, we used a fishing line to drag fake fish in front of the squid and then filmed their response. Sometimes they would ink when the fish, especially the barracuda, passed in front of them or they would shoot away much faster than we could swim using their siphon for jet propulsion. Other times they would hide in the soft coral and sway their arms pretending to be coral. Occasionally they would turn bright red and wave their arms around like little boxers. It became very easy to tell a squid's mood based on its color. A normal, relaxed squid is maroon with gold spots on top and pale on the bottom. This provides countershading to camou-

flage from predators both from above and below. When they were being aggressive, they would become a much brighter ketchup-colored red. When scared, they turned bright white. This was very different than how they look when they are mating; where they also turn bright white with purple spots and spread their arms out like a spider.

On Bonaire, we have an abundance of Caribbean reef squid that like to hang out and bob in the shallows during the day. We can experience them on dives and while snorkeling. They are usually really friendly and curious. I have even heard that they will play with a diver's hands! Most squid are semelparous, which means they die very soon after mating, although the females live long enough to lay their eggs. Unfortunately, this means that any squid or octopus that are caught to be eaten have probably not had any babies yet, and if the breeding population is overfished, this can really harm their population. Make sure that if you eat squid, you think about how sustainably it's sourced so we can keep swimming with these awesome critters! Recently, you might have seen a shoal of 30 or more baby squid swimming around salt pier. So, on your next dive or swim there, check out the colors and see if you can identify how they are feeling!

Written by Mackenzie Stoeltje, recent graduate of UC Davis and current intern at STINAPA Bonaire. Connecting People With Nature.

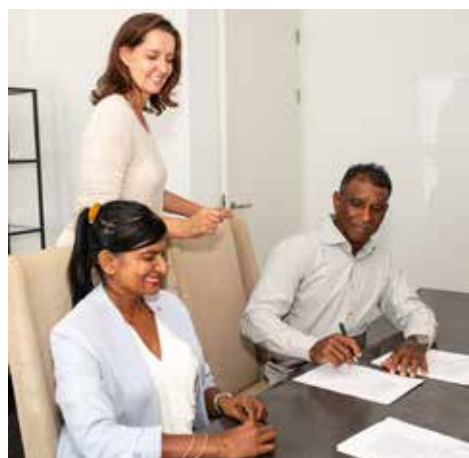


With their brains wrapped around their esophagus squid have to be careful about what they eat, because if they eat something too large, they could damage their brain! Regardless of how their brain is positioned, squid are extremely intelligent, especially considering that they are related to clams and slugs. How can a squid be related to a clam? Clams don't even have eyes while Caribbean reef squid have the largest eye-to-body ratio in the animal kingdom. But they actually have a lot in common. They belong to a group of animals called mollusks, all of which share a few characteristics. They have a mantle or a foot, which on squid is modified into eight arms and two tentacles. And, they have a radula, a tooth-like thing that looks like a mini saw that they use to scrape at their food.

Within mollusks, squid are most closely related to other cephalopods, such as octopus and cuttlefish. The Caribbean reef squid that we have here on Bonaire look so similar to a cuttlefish that their scientific name, *Sepio-teuthis sepioidea*, actually means cuttlefish-like. Similar to octopus and cuttlefish, squid are super smart and have a huge range of colors and patterns that they display on their bodies for both communication and camouflage. Caribbean reef squid are so good at talking with their skin that they can even say two things at once! Often you will see a male get between a female they want to mate with and another male. While the half of their body angled towards the female is pale, indicating they want to mate, the half of their body facing the other male is a bright aggressive red, warning them to stay away.

I was part of a research project with University of Exeter in England who came to Bonaire to study these squid and how their complex communication system works.

Foundation is now official



Bonaire Human Rights Organization Foundation became a legal entity on June 4, with the signing of documents administrated by civil law notary Aniek Huberta Schouten.

The foundation was set up by Davika Jasmine Shaw originally from Guyana and Serrio James Finies of Bonaire.

The foundation is based on promoting and protecting the rights of all nationals and citizens of Bonaire. They plan to advocate for all rights of island citizens based on the International Bill of Rights. This includes inherent human right of equality and non-discrimination.

The human rights organization is basing their ideas of human rights on the aspects of Article 73 of the Charter of the United nation with Relevant United Nations, International, regional institutions and organizations.

They hope to educate and promote continuous public awareness on human rights.

The Bonaire Human Rights Organization Foundation is funded by donations, subsidies and contribution. *Photo & Story Julie Morgan.*

More than 1000 laptops arrive for BES students

More than 1000 laptops arrived last week to be distributed to schools in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

When the Covid 19 pandemic closed the schools, the public entities of the Caribbean Netherlands applied to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) for financing to provide laptops for digital distance learning.

Minister Arie Slob for Primary and Secondary Education and Media honored that application: "It is important that all students in the Caribbean Netherlands can continue to receive good education during these times when they often work from home. The right tools are crucial in this respect," said Minister Slob

During the recent closure all schools did their best to continue education. Many schools worked with paper homework packages for the students, usually in combination with education via digital channels. Because not all families and teachers had the necessary tools - a laptop or tablet and an internet connection - not all pupils were able to participate fully.

While the internet providers on the three islands offered discounted or free Wi-Fi connections where necessary, an inventory was made per island of how many laptops were needed to ensure that every teacher and student could participate in digital distance learning. The devices were subsequently ordered and shipped to the islands in collaboration with SIVON (cooperative of school boards in primary and secondary education).

Schools are currently examining how to integrate digital distance learning into their education in a better way. In addition to the necessary tools, this includes the selection and purchase of programs and software and the promotion of necessary digital skills for teachers, students

and their parents.

In addition, schools in the Caribbean Netherlands can make use of the OCW subsidy regulation for catch up and support programs for education 2020-2021. They can use this additional funding between the period of the summer vacation of 2020 and the end of the summer vacation of 2021 to provide additional support to students who incurred a backlog in their learning or development, as a result of the Corona crisis.



Deputy Nina den Heyer helps to display the new laptops delivered to the schools for digital distance learning



Divers collect fishing line under the south pier. Photo: Julie Morgan.

Street Colors Bonaire has started!

Street Colors Bonaire is a collaboration between the Island's youthful artists and professional street artists from Europe. Five professional artists on Bonaire will also act as coaches. Between June 2020 and the summer of 2021 about 15 young talents will create four murals.

Street Colors Bonaire started its first official mural in the centro di Bario Nort di Saliña (across from the Dutch bakery) Saturday June 6. In June, everyone can follow their progress at the community center. They will be working Saturdays from 3 to 6pm. In August and September, the project's talent group will visit various artists and studios on Bonaire. They begin their educational program at the MBO in September as well, studying topics like freedom of speech, tolerance and art history. In October the first international artist will come to Bonaire, and then the young artists will paint many more walls.

You are asked to join the project's mural search. The project has already begun hunting for Bonaire's existent murals. They plan to capture all the murals of Bonaire digitally, and are asking for help locating them. Take a photo of the mural and send it with its location, and any information you might have via email SCB@plataformakultural.com, or via Instagram [@streetcolorsbonaire](https://www.instagram.com/streetcolorsbonaire) and add #huntingmuralsbonaire



Ishmaellita Martijn looks out from the window of a graffiti wall painted on a practice day.

Street Colors Bonaire is made possible by financial support from Fund 21, Fund for Cultural Participation and Public Body Bonaire. The project was initiated by Mimoun Himmit and Marieke Knol from Hòfi Kultural.



People's choice winner dines at Rum Runners



Larry Stern, People's Choice winner of The Bonaire Reporter photo contest, enjoyed his prize of a dinner compliments of Rum Runners Restaurant at Captain Dons Habitat. In the last few months, Rum Runners has undergone some major renovations to provide customers with even better ocean view dining. L - Bonaire culinary team member and Rum Runner chef Miguel "Poppie" Saragoza and R - prize winner Larry Stern.

Taking care of our ocean

To celebrate World Oceans Day and World Oceans Month, several groups hit the water to clean up the human trash that has been deposited in the ocean surrounding Bonaire. Two groups dived into Bonaire's crystal clear blue waters surrounding the north and south piers.

Approximately 30 divers signed up for fishing line collection with STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire). They met at the Dive In Dive Friends location with 20 divers showing for the cleanup. Up the road, Blue Destination collaborated with STINAPA Junior Rangers to collect trash at the north pier. Governor Edison Rijna and deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe donned their scuba gear to lend a hand with the cleanup.

Deputy Asjoe said that there were so many tires down there, that they were going to do it again in a few weeks.

And on land the weekly "One Hour Cleanup Power" attacked Playa Grandi coastline in force picking up countless bottle caps, spoons, straws, bottles and more.

On June 13, the group joined forces with Bonaire Blue Destination and the Junior Rangers making another dent in the accumulated litter. If anyone wants to lend a hand they will be at Playa Grandi again next Saturday June 20 at 9:30am.

Clean Coast Bonaire surveyed and picked up micro plastics on June 14 at TeAmo beach. *Julie Morgan*





Reef Glimpses

Sign of the times?

My silliest memory having to do with conch took place in the Bahamas in 1979. Stan Waterman, one of the best underwater filmmakers at the time and still one of the most charming human beings on the planet, was filming our boat's conch dive. "I'll set up on the sand in front of a conch," he explained to his two volunteer models, "and when I give the 'okay' signal, you swim down to the conch while looking at the camera." They followed his directions perfectly, approaching the conch from each side – and crashed right into each other. The divers were not hurt, but the scene of the colliding heads did not make it into the finished film...

At that time, in the Bahamas, it was legal to take conch by snorkeling. Once a week, each dive boat at our resort would board a conch-salad-maker or two, the divers (with only snorkel gear), and beer, and head off to shallow sand flats, where we'd snorkel for conch and drink beer, and then snorkel for conch, drink beer, and gobble down fresh conch salad. The conch we didn't eat was for the resort's daily-made conch chowder.

At the undeveloped, very southern

end of the island was a little dock. Scattered all around the end of the dock were conch shells that had been discarded by those who had taken the meat. The shells with the least growth, the most recently discarded ones, were smaller and had less-developed lips than the ones with the most growth, which were down longer.

Sound familiar? The conch piles at Lac are like that, with much larger shells—conch of reproductive age -- on the bottom and the smallest shells, the ones with no lip, on the top. Conchs are now fully protected on Bonaire and any taking is prohibited by law.

Conch (generally pronounced "konk" but occasionally "konch"), called "kar-ko" on Bonaire, has been a food staple for generations of Caribbean islanders. All collectors had to do was swim down and pick up as many as they could carry. A hole is broken in the top of each shell through which a knife separates the snail from its shell, and the collector, pulling on the claw, easily removes the animal.

The claw?

It's called that because it looks like, well, a claw, but it's actually the conch's operculum. In many snails, such as our West Indian Top Shell ("cocolishi"), the



Maw, (maybe) Paw, and the egg cluster. Photo credit Gary Wirth.

operculum works like a trapdoor to protect the snail from drying out, and helps protect the snail from predators.

Conchs have no trapdoor to close against a predator but they still use their opercula when threatened, by shoving the pointed end into the sand and vaulting themselves along. Yes, you read that right: vaulting conchs! You can tell by their sand trails, too: if they're smooth the snail is crawling normally, on its foot. If they have crossways lines in them the snail is vaulting. If the predator is a loggerhead turtle or stingray or human, nothing will help, but vaulting works very successfully to escape slower predators such as trumpet snails or sea stars.

In addition to vaulting for escape, conchs also vault when they're in a hurry to get somewhere. Somewhere, say, like a

gathering dedicated to reproduction.

Mona and Gary Wirth recently came upon a rare gathering of a variety of small conchs called West Indian fighting conch. Females of both queen conch and fighting conch deposit long sticky strands of eggs (which may have been fertilized by more than one male). The sticky strands get covered with sand and ball up. After a few days the eggs hatch; the larval critters feed on plankton for up to six weeks, then settle to the bottom to turn into tiny adults.

What was especially interesting about this gathering was that there were fewer than 50 individuals, and they kept in closer groups of two or three. Except for their lack of masks, their behavior was perfect in these days of the COVID-19 "new normal." *Dee Scarr*

Fred Ros Quarantine art exhibit sold out



As soon as guests arrived at "Everything but Lola", they began buying the 14 pieces of Fred Ros' Quarantine Art. Each piece was \$210 and all but one was sold. Owners of "Lola," Erika Sanders and John Weemaes, hosts for the evening, served an open bar for the art-loving guests. Contributions for the libations were added to the art receipts equaling a total of \$3086. The artist Fred Ros and Erika and John donated the funds to the food bank. Approximately 60 people attended the show. The door kept track of the number of people by giving each person entering a token with a number. This made it easy to allow only 50 people in the building due to Covid 19 measures.

Displaying three of the Quarantine Art pieces are L to R- John Weemaes, Fred Ros and Erika Sanders. Photo: Julie Morgan



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The chess kids are competing again

Bonaire's youthful chess club is playing a chess tournament dedicated to Emanuel Lont. To date, Frederic Simonis and Ralph Salimin are tied for first place.

The points awarded so far are:

1. Frederic Simonis and Ralph Salimin 2p
2. Emanuel Lont and Serapio Pop 1 1/2p
3. Tamaris Pikeur 1p
4. Jaedan, Santiago I Jaynah 0p

This coming week will see the final matches in the tournament. *Serapio Pop*, leader of BJSC



Santiago Lont plays Mr. Serapio Pop
In the background, Tamaris Pikeur and Frederic Simonis record their moves



Jaeden Crestian and Emanuel Lont

Black Lives Matter, continued from page 3

In English, the plaque translates as:

*1634 / 1934
In remembrance of the 300 year
Dutch authority
[Landing Van Van Walbeeck July
1634]*

Bonairean Zila Ignazcio said, " I want them to take away all those statues

that mean nothing to us. Those people brought our ancestors here to kill us. Maybe if they take them away then maybe they will respect us..."

Gougon said, "Bonaireans don't want controversy...But discrimination from Holland has to go... It takes a person to break the barrier." *Story and photos by Julie Morgan*



Dreams Project, a Bonaire soccer team coached by Jermaine Winklaar, attended the Black Lives Matter protest and posed for a photo with organizer Guerlian Gougon.

SZW school package available

Parents of children going to secondary school in the fall can apply to SZW for a contribution towards the costs of school supplies. The SZW school package consists of vouchers for school uniforms, shoes and stationery. Families on Bonaire with an income up to \$ 1,250 net per month are eligible for this support.

You can apply at the SZW office or by e-mail. You can find the application form at www.rijksdienstcn.com under "Social Affairs."

Consultation hours are in the weeks of June 15 and 22 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 1:30 and 3:30 pm. Parents and caregivers who can't come by at these times, and who can't submit a digital application can make an appointment by sending an email to onderstand@rijksdienstcn.com or by calling or WhatsApp +599 781 0343.

Bonaire's kids can attend summer camp

For the second year Les Camps Futés, an inspirational six week summer camp will be held in Bonaire. The international educational and motivational children's camp is scheduled for July 6 to August 14. The camp provides children with thoughtful entertainment activities during the summer months.

Les Camps Futés is designed to encourage the kids to meet new people and try new things in order to build their social skills and self esteem. Each week of the camp has a different theme created to inspire the children to learn and grow. A weekly performance show for parents and friends will illustrate their new skills and progress.

Camp organizer Ariane Cloutier says children will be inspired to break out of their shells and work together or individually to enhance their hidden talents and interests.

Melissa Hilgers former manager at Harbour Village will be stepping into the role of BDM for Les Camps Futés.

Parents can sign up their kids for one

week at a time or for all six weeks. Each week is \$120 per child. This price includes a full day of childcare from 7am to 5:30pm, a hot meal, snacks, drinks and, of course, a lot of fun and engaging activities.

To see each weeks theme go to the booking website and enter the camp's name: Camps Futés Bonaire. You can use one of two booking sites: www.amilia.com for English and Papiamentu or www.campsfutes.com/amilia for Dutch

Parents who need support for their child to attend the camp can call 599-786-1225 for aid.

Since 2013, there have been 11 Camps Futés at 10 at different locations in Canada as well as the one camp in Bonaire. For more information and to view some fun photos and videos of previous camps visit www.facebook.com/campsFutésbonaire/

Parents can also contact Ariane at Bonaire @campsFutés.com
Julie Morgan

For all of Jaap Copini's many friends on Bonaire, we sadly report that he passed away Friday, June 5th in the Netherlands.



Sad and grateful, we say goodbye to my inspiring husband, and our sweet, tough and adventurous father and grandfather.

Jaap, you were my rock. You are our silent strength and you remain our beacon forever.

Jaap Copini
husband of Rägel Altherr

Born Bandoeng, Indonesia, October 9, 1942
+ Bennekom, the Netherlands, June 5, 2020

Rägel
Mira, Jaira & Leon and Thirza
Manon, Ferdi and Celeste
Rhea, Marcel, Floor and Francien
Annika and Jessika

Reports on Bolivia 1998 - 2020

For the next few months we will publish 22 environmental reports (1998 to present), that all attest to the uniqueness of the ecosystem found in Bolivia on Bonaire.



Parrot, the Barn Owl and nine indigenous bat species. Bolivia is one of the six Bonaire Important Bird Areas listed in the BirdLife International protocol in the Caribbean. The area is important for six bird trigger species. Additionally, a healthy resilient dry tropical forest is better able to absorb the consequences of climate change.

The second is the system of dry and wet caves that provide homes and breeding grounds for birds, bats and different endemic freshwater crustaceans. Tranquility is of paramount importance for the protection and preservation of the cave fauna. These caves cannot be isolated from the surrounding ecosystems and their conservation requires integration into the protection of the whole area. Moreover, the presence of known and, perhaps, yet un-discovered pre-Columbian Amerindian petroglyphs make this area important for both cultural and scientific reasons.

According to recent studies the total economic value (TEV) of the ecosystem services provided by the island's marine and terrestrial ecosystems, including Bolivia Plantation, is \$105 million per year. With the current threats unmanaged, the TEV will decrease from \$105 million today to around \$60 million in 10 years' time and to less than \$40 million in 30 years.

Measures must be put in place to protect Bolivia to preserve the economic and environmental health of Bonaire. Currently most of the land is zoned as "open landscape," a designation that provides little or no environmental protection. Moreover, it is within the power of the local government to protect or grant exemptions for any environmental regulations not enforced by national or international laws.

Published compliments of Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia



Iconic lighthouse and landhouse mark the coast in Bolivia Photo Julie Morgan

Executive Summary

Over the past 20 years numerous studies have reported on the condition and threats to Bonaire's natural environment. The conclusions of these 22 reports are summarized below. The reports mention that the health of the ecosystems and iconic species, is without exception, already in a moderately unfavorable to very unfavorable state and that without environmental protection there will be grave economic and natural consequences.

Preservation of the environment is most important for the island as the relatively unspoiled nature of Bonaire is the magnet that draws tourists to the island and is the competitive edge the island holds over similar Caribbean destinations. Tourism is the overwhelming economic factor and source of employment for Bonaire.

Currently there is little or no legislated governmental protection for the natural environment of Bonaire. Foremost among the areas requiring protection is the former Bolivia Plantation. Plantation Bolivia is a wilderness area of about 3,000 hectares (7,400) acres) of mostly undeveloped land located in the northeast corner (the elbow) in the middle of the island of Bonaire. It is about 10% of the island's land area with a coastline facing the prevailing wind. (see map) Its central location provides a land bridge connecting the hilly north and flat southern parts that supports critical biodiversity necessary for the survival of the native flora and fauna of the entire island.

Bolivia provides the habitat for numerous important protect species of birds, plants, cactus, trees, coral, and fish as well as elements of cultural and historical importance. Two environments are most critical.

The first is Bolivia's dry tropical forest. The dry tropical forest is the world's most endangered forest ecosystem. The forest supports the island's keystone cactuses that bloom during dry seasons and provide an important food source for native species of lizards, bats and birds. Among these are endangered species like the Yellow shouldered Amazon

Reef Freedom returns home



Above: With the lack of tourists on island, many of the resorts, hotels, dive operations and restaurants have taken advantage of this down time to make needed repairs and renovations. When the guests do return they will find a lot of upgrades. Return divers to Captain Don's Habitat will find that Reef Freedom has been completely overhauled and painted. It even has new engines! At the dock with some of the Habitat staff L-R Wilco, Karen, Marco and Whitney.



Right: Habitat dive manager, Roger Haug, shows off the shiny new engines powering 'Reef Freedom.'

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What is Happening

Sunday June 21	Father's Day International Day of Yoga 2020 5:30pm A free pop-up yoga event open to everyone will be held in the plaza by Cuba. Yoginis will practice as a group to do 108 (or as many or few as people like) sun salutations in a demonstration of unity. Questions? Contact sarah@mindfulisland.com
Sunday June 28	Sunrise Hike of Brandaris 5 -8am \$10 Washington-Slagbaai National Park Phone to reserve your spot: STINAPA +599 717 8444
Saturday July 4	Taste of Bonaire Summer Edition 6-11pm Wilhelmina Park Sample local and international food from fine restaurants, meet Bonaire's artisans, buy local souvenirs, enjoy live music and dancing
Sunday July 5	Hike the Lagadishi Trail under the full moon 5:30-7:30pm \$10 The four km walk is guided by George "Kultura" Thode, and takes about two hours. As you walk the sun sets and the full moon rises above you. Phone to reserve your spot: STINAPA +599 717 8444. Space is limited
Saturday to Sunday, July 4-5	Penumbral Lunar Eclipse July 4 from 11:07pm till July 5 1:52am . Bonaire will have good viewing for the July 2020 Penumbra Lunar Eclipse. See Sky Park, this page.
Sunday July 12	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey. Boka Onima 4pm Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.

Every Saturday

Pakus di Pruga- Flea Market store sponsored by the Animal Shelter from 8am till 4pm
Open but with "social distancing" requirements



Saturday, June 20th
Wobble with it

It's the June solstice on Saturday June 20th, the first day of summer and the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. Solstice comes from Latin sol - sun and sistere - to stand still.

It appears to happen because the earth wobbles on our axis -- called an axial tilt -- this means the northern hemisphere tilts toward the sun in June, and away in December. The axial tilt is why we have seasons, and not, like some think, because of the distance from earth to the sun.

Earth's tilt was thought to be caused by a great impact, perhaps by Theia -- which is the object that hit earth and spun off to create the moon.

All our planets have tilts, so each one has a solstice and seasons, but the further out you are, the longer each season will be, by earth reckoning. Heck, Neptune's last summer solstice was in nineteen thirteen. Keep lookin' up!

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

July 4th and 5th.
Penumbra lunar eclipse

Bonaire will have good viewing for the July 2020 Penumbra Lunar Eclipse, July 4-5. The moon is above the horizon, so with good weather conditions in Kralendijk, the entire eclipse will be visible. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when Earth's outer shadow falls on the moon's face. It is easy to miss because the Earth's main shadow (umbra) does not cover the Moon, so most of the Moon is illuminated by sunlight.

An Eclipse Never Comes Alone!

A solar eclipse always occurs about two weeks before or after a lunar eclipse.

Usually, there are two eclipses in a row, but other times, like now, there are three during the same eclipse season.

The first two eclipses this season could not be seen in Kralendijk but were visible instead in South/East Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, the Pacific, and Indian Ocean. This third eclipse, however, we will be able to see.

Penumbra Eclipse begins: Jul 4 at 11:07:23 pm and ends: Jul 5 at 1:52:21 am

Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/lunar/2020-july-5>

Customs, Kmar and KPCN carry out a multidisciplinary control



On Saturday, June 6th, Customs, Kmar (Royal Military Police) and KPCN (Dutch Caribbean Police Force), conducted a multidisciplinary check on Kaya C.E.B Hellmund and the south pier. They checked for prohibited goods, illegal imports, and the validity of insurance, driving licenses and residence documents.

On the south pier, 52 vehicles were checked. The customs narcotics dog was used for two vehicles. During the action, a harpoon and a small amount of hashish was found and seized. The KPCN

issued two fines to drivers who did not have their documents in order. During the second part of this action, 12 vehicles were checked at various locations along the south coast of Bonaire. No offenses were found.

Because the various forces find multidisciplinary controls to be efficient and also a lot more effective, multidisciplinary checks will be held even more often this year than in the past.

Bonaire's residents can help report animal and plant species

Start helping today to gather a big biodiversity dataset for the Dutch Caribbean. The species reports by local communities are very valuable for the nature conservation organizations and policy makers to learn and protect the species on our islands.

Dutchcaribbean.Observation.org is a free online website to register all species sightings. Anyone can register and enter species observations. This platform is available in more than 40 languages, and is now also being translated into Papiamentu. Observation.org also offers free Apps for iPhone (iObs) & Android (ObsMapp).

Contribute photos Observation.org is working together with Naturalis Biodiversity Center on automated species identification software. Your uploaded

photos are of great value to make this possible.

To get started:

1. register with your full name on: <https://observation.org/registreer.php>
2. watch these videos on how to enter sightings <https://youtu.be/H6aUiBlGy-Cg> and <https://youtu.be/xGksc6xHrd4>
3. download the app via the App Store / Google Play. Once installed download the species lists for the country 'Dutch Caribbean'
4. use your personal account to login online and in the app
5. Start recording your sightings!

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact research@DCNAnature.org

New procedures for specialist referrals

GPs will now email specialists' referral letters directly to the hospital's outpatient clinic. The clinic will then call the patient within five working days to report the date and time of their appointment. For urgent referrals, the GP will immediately make an appointment by telephone with the specialist concerned.

If patients have questions about their appointment, they can contact the relevant clinic by phone at 715 - 8900.

Medical specialists from Aruba, Curaçao or the Netherlands cannot come to Bonaire as long as the quarantine

measures of the public body of Bonaire are in effect. As soon as this situation changes, Fundashon Mariadal will announce the change.

Due to the corona threat, Mariadal has taken measures to prevent crowds and queues within the hospital. The desk clerk at the main entrance will ask each visitor a few questions to determine if they can enter safely. Waiting rooms have been allocated a maximum number of visitors. When this maximum is reached, visitors are asked to wait outside the building at the entrance.



Making Bonaire "Accessible" Rehabilitation

The MSD manual states the following:

"Regardless of the severity of the disability or the skill of the rehabilitation team, the final outcome of rehabilitation depends on the person's motivation. Some people delay recovery to gain attention from family members or friends".

Once you are at home, on your own, amongst family members, the real life begins. You have learned a lot at the rehab center and you can begin acting upon it. And then real life hits you in the face:

Power failure, water failure, bad roads, even worse curbs, adapted transportation, the way your house is furnished, the small bathroom, the bad access road, and working in your kitchen seems impossible.

Not everybody was so lucky to have been able to rehabilitated and have an

"ergo therapist" available. You have to make do with what there is.

You have to find out on together with your doctor plus your therapist what works for you and where you can obtain your "life-hacks". Where do you get special cups, cup-holders, canes, wheelchairs, etc. Once you know this, you must apply for them at the ZVK.

Then you can try to get those items at the BBC or/and MMC. This is where reality hits you in the face, because most of those appliances are not covered by the ZVK because of economy measures. You have to pay them out of your own pocket. And that is very hard to do for most of our citizens. They simply cannot afford to pay. There are people who borrow money to be able to buy a device and that should not be the case.

So every now and then a group of people or therapists get together and look for possibilities in Holland. Here many devic-

es are easy to obtain and I understand that there are storage units full of devices that people do not need anymore. In Holland freight containers are filled with much needed and asked for devices. A generous sponsor is asked to cover the transportation costs and once on Bonaire, the devices are distributed amongst the people in dire need.

This is such a wonderful project and I would like to applaud the organizers for these actions. They make so many people very happy. And I know that it makes the sponsors happy as well, seeing all the grateful people with their walkers, canes, etc. and keeping their rehabilitation going. Keep up the great job! Bonaire needs citizens like you *Ria Evers-Dokter*

Visit our online archive for the story, "Donated walking aids arrive for Bonaire's Seniors," page 11, The Bonaire Reporter, Issue 9, May 6-May 20, 2020. (https://bonairereporter.com)



A Garden? Just Do It!

Grandma and cashews

My grandma was one of a special kind.

When we were sick with a fever, cough, diarrhea, a cold, vomiting, a cut, a wound, a blue spot; we, the grandchildren, were not taken to a doctor but to grandma. It was so normal, that I remember asking for her when feeling sick. I was sure that grandma could heal me. She was our doctor and, of course, when sick grandma always had some candy for you. Granny's yard was full of trees and bushy plants and from those she made liquids, teas, mashed herbs, awful tasting bitter remedies, oils like coconut oil, neem oil, and so on. There were remedies to rub (with coco oil), to drink (lemon grass with lapia alba, known here as oregano, against the cold), to eat (sweet tamarind against constipation), mouth rinses (sali herbs against throat inflammation), for the bath (neem oil against skin fungus). For fever she used to tie a towel with ice cubes and lemon juice around the under legs. These are a few examples which I still use but grandma knew a lot more and sometimes when I see a certain tree or plant It reminds me of my grandma with her natural knowledge of the healing of plants.



I found out that in one of my neighbor's yard there is a huge cashew tree growing with reddish cashew fruit. This was one of the trees in grandma's yard and she used to make a remedy with a small piece of the bark to rinse the mouth for throat pain. Every two hours, take a bit of the bitter tea in the mouth and then rinse and spit. Within a few days the pain was over and inflammation was gone. The bark has an

antiseptic oil that fights the inflammation. The result was pure natural healing.

Cashew nuts are very popular in the world and on Bonaire the "cashupete bolo" tart made with cashew nuts is one of the most delicious cakes. Google the recipe, there are many on the internet.

And do you know that you can have your own cashew tree in your yard? It is a tropical tree and is supremely adapted to hot lowland areas. It's a tall tree that takes about three years from planting to produce. There is also a dwarf cashew tree that grows up to five meters and starts producing earlier.

The cashew tree is an evergreen tree and the fruit is in fact a false fruit of the cashew apple of yellow or red color. The true fruit is a kidney or boxing glove shape drupe that grows at the end of the cashew apple. The true fruit, the kidney, contains a single seed, which is often considered a nut in the culinary sense.

Cashews are not sold in the shell to consumers because the seed is surrounded by a double shell that contains a resin that irritates the skin. UC Davis Integrative Medicine warns: "Raw cashews contain urushiol, a resin that is toxic if ingested and can cause rashes or burns if it contacts the skin. To remove this substance, cashews must go through a rigorous roasting or steaming process to ensure they are safe to eat."

The nuts are used in snacking, cooking, in cakes, desserts, sweets and curries. It is ground into a paste for sauces or curries and powdered for desserts and breads. Cashew fruit juice and fruit pulp are used in juices and alcoholic beverages. and as a flour, milk or cheese. Cashew has great nutritional value. Its a rich source of dietary minerals, including copper, manganese, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, zinc, iron, calcium, sodium, and selenium. It is also rich in thiamine, vitamin B2, B3, B6, B9, B12, and vitamin C,D,K.

The nutshell oil is used in tropical folk medicine. It's a raw material oil of multiple uses in developing drugs, antioxidants and fungicides. Cashew apple is very good to chew on when having wounds in the mouth.

As a child I use to put the fresh nutshell on a low wood fire (grandma's cooking place) and ate the nut when roasted.

You can have your own cashew tree. The seeds grow easily and fast. Put a nutshell in one finger deep dirt in a small container. After a week, the shell bursts open and the plant starts growing. When the plant grows bigger, replant it in a bigger container. Water it and leave it there until you think that it is strong enough to go in the yard. Look for cashew trees on the island to find seeds.

And enjoy your own roasted cashew nuts after a few years. *Angliet, Nature lover*

Ask a Geek

By Brian Niessen

So I upgraded to Windows 10 and now none of my old software works anymore...

On one of my Windows 10 machines, I bit the bullet and decided to use it as my "work" computer to do spreadsheets, word processing, slide shows, diagrams, and other normal day to day things.

I figured that since I have legally paid for copies of Microsoft Office and Corel Draw, I could just install them. Or, so I thought. There is no way to get them to work.

The only option is to buy new versions. Microsoft Office is now called Microsoft 365 and costs \$69 a year to "rent" - you can no longer buy Microsoft software,

including the operating system. And Corel is now on special for ONLY \$699.

Well, I do not want to spend that money so I decided to look at free alternatives and see how well they work.

To begin with, I downloaded LibreOffice which is the full gamut of "Office compatible" programs - Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Visio, just with different names.

First off - it is free from <https://www.libreoffice.org/> and second of all, it is compatible with Microsoft office files (XLS, XLSX, DOC, DOCX, etc).

Second, most of the functionality is the same, and in a lot of cases, even the keyboard shortcuts and menu items are the same or very similar, so the learning curve was pretty easy.

Third - It is being constantly upgraded, and while they do ask for a donation, it is free to install and use without

the "Try for 30 days" type of thing.

In my search, I did find some of the options for other free software:

- Video Editing >> OpenShot Video Editor
- Photoshop >> GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program), Pixlr, PicMonkey
- Corel Draw or Adobe Illustrator >> Sketch, Inkscape
- Adobe Acrobat >> FoxIt (Free Version), Nitro (Free Version)

Most of these programs mentioned work on Windows, Mac and Linux.

If you have any favorite free replacements you would like to share, please let us know by emailing the editor, and we will mention them in the next column.

Thanks, and stay free!

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Shelter News

Pet of the Week: Spike

Shelter news success story: Blanka spreads the virus....of love!



Blanka is introduced to Thunder in the new Meet and Greet patio at the Shelter along with Dan's wife Erika Allen and Dan Riggenschbach.

powerful life lessons! Within days the social media post garnered some attention and the Shelter got a visit from someone who had fallen in love with Blanka's magic smile and wanted to meet her in person.

Dan Riggenschbach came and visited Blanka and there was an instant connection. They immediately loved each other, but there was still one thing left to do. Dan also had another dog at home, a giant furry sweetheart golden retriever named Thunder. Like any responsible dog keeper, Dan knew that Thunder also had to be happy with Blanka.

As if she knew how to remind us all of a silver lining yet again in this time of hardship, Blanka along with Thunder, were the first two dogs to be introduced to each other in our brand new Meet and Greet Yard. The Shelter has been enormously blessed recently with the support of the sailing vessel the Seahawk, its owners and team. They made it possible to build this special new yard.

The meeting between the two dogs went wonderfully, with each dog quickly warming up to and accepting each other with wagging tails. Needless to say, Blanka along with her new family were all smiling ear to ear. In a time like this where bad news seems to be everywhere, Blanka teaches us that it is in the darkest hours that even the smallest light will shine bright.

With sharing and support on social media, and exposure via our partners at The Bonaire Reporter, it is animal lovers like YOU who allow our beautiful adoptable animals to have a chance for the great lives they deserve. Many more great animals with equally unfortunate previous lives are waiting at the Shelter for the same happy ending that Blanka received.

Blanka is "patient zero", unknowingly starting her own movement spreading her courage and love through her smile. Let us all share her viral love and smile! *Story and photos by Amy Weir*



With the world suffering from a novel pandemic, climate change, and political tensions, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at the news these days. Prompted by this feeling of discouragement, a couple weeks ago the Animal Shelter decided to try and uplift our supporters on social media with the story of one of our wonderful adoptable dogs Blanka.

The day Blanka entered the shelter about a year ago, she arrived as a sad and dirty mess. She was covered in ticks, mud, and matted fur, but something special stood out about this dog. She smiled, a lot! While volunteers washed this brown dog and magically found out she had white fur, she smiled at them. While staff gently cut away all the knots in her fur to free her tail that had been stuck to her belly from the tangles, she smiled. After patiently sitting while one-by-one more than 50 ticks were removed from her, she still smiled. Her resilient smile filled our hearts.

We decided to harness the inspiration that Blanka has given our staff and volunteers over the past year and so two weeks ago wrote about her gift of positivity in the face of adversity. We included a couple of photos of her famous smile and a little about her story. Little did we know that Blanka still wasn't finished teaching us her

Hello pet lovers!

My name is Spike, I am a healthy neutered boy around two years old. I am way healthier now than the day I first set paws in the shelter. I was very overweight and because I was so chubby I lost all interest in life. Everything was too much for me and I was constantly tired. I could only stand up and walk to my food and water bowl.

But the sweet humans here believed in me and took me out for small walks, and then the walks became longer and longer...and I started to actually enjoy them! Then I discovered I can jump and stand on my back legs so I can reach the humans and give them kisses and hugs. In the beginning it was a long road, but now I must say I love the road I'm heading for. I hope that road might lead me to my forever family with lots of love and care.

I lost over 22 pounds (10 kilos) and still trying for a little more. I am so happy and full of life again. It is time for me to go to a real home. Are you that person that will love me and walk with me and hug me and take me for what I am? Please come and meet me and maybe take me for a walk. Waiting for you at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday-Saturday, 9-12 and 3-5. Saturday 9-3. Call the Animal Shelter 7014989 or 7174989 or contact the Animal Shelter by Whatsapp or Facebook messenger.

Story Sanne Attevelt. Photo Keryn Rankin, Chief Stewardess, S/Y Seahawk.



**Top L-R: Sanne Attevelt & Amy Weir
Bottom: L-R: Travis Sullins & Jane Madden-Disko**

Please help us continue to operate. Donate 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:

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Tourism recovery, continued from page 1

- Ethnic and cultural tours
- Tours of the historical sites in Rincon and a market place in Rincon
- Restarting Bob Bus tours that circle a known route at a minimal cost to the passenger
- Designated tour busses only for handicapped
- Culinary tours
- Providing concessions at Pink Beach
- Kunuku tours that include historical dancers with local food and drinks
- Toilets provided at various attractions on the island
- Promote beach cleanups to the tourist.

Burney el Hage told the crowd that as far as mass tourism goes, we did that and it didn't work well. We need to learn from the past. Hage, Orlando Francisa of Rento

Fun and Elvis Martinus of Windsurf Bonaire all echoed the same words, stressing the importance of getting organized and establishing guidelines for quality tourism.

One participant said that tour operators and taxis usually provide the first impression of Bonaire. We need to give tourists experiences on Bonaire that will be remembered for life. Others offered that we can't depend on one type of tourism.

In closing Thielman said, "We are asking you as we don't have all the answers. We are doing what we can. We need you to start doing something. Don't look only to the government. Together we can do this." *Photos and story by Julie Morgan*

Shelter says thank you, continued from page 6

done in a short amount of time, it was just finding the right construction crew to do it.

And that crew was Alwin Lintharst's company Koraal Bouw. The entire Seahawk crew, including Adam and Gisela, helped with the work even when it involved painting and digging in the dirt.

The first project was the Puppy Village (Reporter Issue 8, April 22-May6, 2020) and next in line was the Meet and Greet area.

Animal Shelter board chair Jane Disko said the new Meet and Greet area will make the adoption process go smoother. Before, anyone wishing to adopt a dog had to risk getting malled by the other dogs in the pen in order to spend time with their possible new pet. "Now we can bring the dog to the meet and greet and they can play and spend time with

it. And if the possible adoptees currently have another dog, they can introduce the animals to see how they get along."

The new boarding kennels will provide additional revenue and help support the shelter. They are also nicer for the animals and more attractive to the pet owners.

Henry said the dogs were rolling around in the dirt, so they added gravel in some places, sand for playing and digging, and concrete for easier cleaning in all the new spaces.

He said they redid the parking lot so that as soon as visitors arrive, they will have a good first impression of the shelter.

"Never did we think that when Gisela and crew member Keryn Rankin first arrived, they would do this for us. In the baking hot sun we thought they would never last. They have done so much for us, but especially for our animals," Jane

said, "The improvements they made have been on our wish list and five year plan, and the Seahawk made it happen. What would have taken us 15 years to get done, they did in months."

Crewmember Keryn Rankin, who made the first visit to the shelter with Gisela, has 'almost' become a staff member at the shelter. She fell in love with many of the dogs and took them for walks or a swim taking up the slack for the staff. Keryn said she wished she could do it everyday.

The Seahawk crew sailed away for Greece on June 16W, but they will be back. Like so many other visitors to Bonaire, the island has stolen their hearts. Thank you, Alpert and the Seahawk crew, for your generous gifts to the shelter and Bonaire.

Story and photo by Julie Morgan



Keryn Rankin, chief stewardess for the Seahawk receives some special puppy kisses.



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