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Photo by C. Elderson and Bonaire Donkey Protection League Foundation

Can Bonaire's donkeys be saved?

One of Bonaire's most treasured and iconic animals, the donkey, is under threat of becoming only a memory by 2030. According to the NMBP_CN, Nature and Environmental Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands, donkeys have to go if we want to keep our coral reefs alive.* But the removal of Bonaire's historic donkey is piercing a hole in the hearts of many people that believe the animals are a part of what makes Bonaire, well, Bonaire.

The donkeys were brought to the island, along with goats and other livestock by Spain in 1527. Many of the donkeys were domesticated and put to work as beasts of burden while many roamed the island wild. With the arrival of vehicles on Bonaire the working donkeys lost their 'jobs' and were turned out to fend for themselves.

Much like the flamingo, the donkey has become a part of Bonaire's landscape and a symbol for Bonaire tourism. In earlier times, if a donkey needed medical help, animal lovers Al Catalfumo and Elly Albers were called to come to the rescue. Then in 1993, Marina Melis and her husband Ed Koopman opened the Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire (DSB). They cared for the injured and sick donkeys and initially released them back into the wild when possible.

As Bonaire's population and tourism numbers grew, the free roaming donkeys were said to be a nuisance and the source of turned over trash cans and traffic accidents.

Scientists reported they were impacting the environment through overgrazing causing run-off affecting Bonaire's coral reefs. This resulted in a contract between the DSB and the government to capture the donkeys, keep the females and babies, castrate / release the males and kill the old or wounded. Ultimately this plan would have destroyed the Bonaire donkey population.

Donkey caretaker, Al Catalfumo and others organized the Bonaire Donkey Protection League Foundation (BDPLF) and the Citizens for Better, Safer Animal Friendly Bonaire to return the donkeys to the wild. In 2014, BDPLF and Citizens for Better, Safer Animal Friendly Bonaire produced the "Bonaire Donkey Salvation Plan: Back to Nature". In short, the plan is to relocate the donkeys from the roads and town to safe areas where they can live in family groups. They will be monitored, and the population controlled at a sustainable level that will not be an issue for Bonaire.

In addition, a DNA study was initiated and revealed that Bonaire's donkey could be the closest descendent to the African Wild Nubian Ass that is now extinct in its homeland. With that the government castration plan was put on hold.

Donkeys on Bonaire, (Ezels op Bonaire) a policy advice report by the Kibrahacha Foundation was released in 2018/19.

According to the report, the castration plan did have



Volunteer Marion Jeursen and two rescued donkey orphans at Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan

an impact because there were fewer donkeys on the road, "from 2013-2016 there were fewer traffic accidents involving a donkey reported".

Furthermore, the report said, that the presence of donkeys and the absence of ground cover and coral reef cover of the seabed has a direct correlation.

This report advises engaging in further DNA studies and establishing an area much like the DSB offers, but on a much larger scale. Their report concludes: "In the case of donkey conservation, the aim is to strive for registra-

Bonaire's donkeys, continued on page 7

Aruba slammed by covid pandemic

The governments of the Netherlands and the USA are advising against travel to Aruba. TUI is repatriating Dutch tourists early. Bonaire and Curaçao have closed their borders to passengers from Aruba. In a three day period, 1195 people were tested in Aruba. Of that number, 8 tested positive on Tuesday, 39 on Wednesday, and 92 on Thursday, for total of 139 new infections. The number of cases continued to grow so that as of publication, August 11, Aruba, with a population of 110,000, reported 630 current infections.

Most of the infected people are residents (52) rather than tourists (4). According to Prime Minister Dangui Oduber, who is also the health minister, Arubans themselves seem to be to blame. The new outbreak could be a continuation of the local infections from two night clubs and a gym. Oduber said that, despite many warnings, Arubans are not following the hygiene and distance rules.

People from the European Netherlands have been urgently advised to return home and self-quarantine for 14 days. TUI is attempting to repatriate more than 500 customers, while passengers who board in Curaçao are complaining about flights diverting to Aruba to load people from an unsafe country. An Aruban student arrived in the Netherlands infected and had to be quarantined, along with those traveling with him.

Meanwhile, Aruba is tightening up. The bars and night clubs have been closed. Face masks are required in all businesses where there is customer contact, as well as on public transport and taxis. There are no legal sanctions yet, but according to Deputy Chief of Police Vanessa Tjon-Kock, they are being considered. *DMR*

Bonaire sets flight restrictions for August

Until September 1, travelers can continue flying from the Netherlands to Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Germany, France, Switzerland and Belgium are also considered safe countries.

The "air bubble" with Aruba is suspended. The airspace remains open, but passengers are no longer allowed to travel freely from Aruba to Bonaire.

Residents of Bonaire who are still on Aruba who want to return can apply for an exemption from the Island Governor. When the OLB knows how many returnees are waiting in Aruba, decisions will be made about how they may return.

A special medical corridor to Aruba will be opened for ZVK patients from Bonaire and medical specialists. Upon arrival they will be transported directly to the hospital to minimize the danger of contamination. *DMR*

Morrococy hit by oil spill



Oil spill in Venezuelan waters. Morrococy park is outlined in yellow. The oil spill is the larger, faint red outline seen to its right.

Volunteers and some PDVSA (Petroleum Company of Venezuela) employees are working to clean up a major oil spill on the beaches and among the mangroves of Morrococy National Park. A satellite image posted on Twitter August 1 by the vessel tracking service TankerTrackers.com revealed the large black oil slick then threatening the Venezuelan coast. Official acknowledgment of the spill was slow to come, but finally an anonymous source at PDVSA confirmed the spill had occurred and said PDVSA was investigating and would help clean it up.

PDVSA blame one of its ships that was leaking oil. However, the Environment Commission of the National Assembly, headed by interim president Juan Guaidó, warned that the oil spill occurred "due to the collapse of the waste lagoon of the El Palito Refinery." Oil spills have become a common occurrence in Venezuela, both inland and on the ocean front, as the infrastructure deteriorates under the lax management of the Maduro government. *DMR*

"The virus does not spread. We spread the virus."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte

The full text of Rutte's important message can be found on page 14 of the online version of *The Bonaire Reporter*, <https://bonairereporter.com>

More doctors and nurses sent

The Dutch government has engaged an international medical employment agency to recruit additional medical personnel to help stem the covid tide for Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten. The European Netherlands, fighting its own pandemic, has no healthcare staff of its own to spare. Eight extra nurses and an infectious disease control doctor have already been sent to Sint Maarten. *DMR*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 4

What are your plastic practices?



Fundashon Limpi i Bunita, Clean Coast Bonaire and Boneiru Duradero (BD) have joined forces to conduct a survey about single use plastics. The two-minute survey is only six easy questions, but can help ascertain Bonaire residents' thoughts and practices regarding plastic.

Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire (OLB) is in the process of developing a legislative ban on single use plastics. Bonaire adopted a motion to ban single use plastics in 2018 and in 2019 a declaration of intent was signed by Deputy James Kroon and the Dutch Minister of Environment, Stientje van Veldhoven.

In 2019, Boneiru Duradero collaborated with OLB to organize stakeholder meetings with the private sector to ask how Bonaire can move "Beyond Plastics." These meetings revealed a broad support for a ban on single use plastics among local businesses. However, it is also important to learn if the public is aware of the importance of plastic reduction.

The single use plastic survey is available on the Facebook pages of Boneiru Duradero, Clean Coast Bonaire and Selibon. Boneiru Duradero and Clean Coast Bonaire are funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature in the Netherlands.

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Covid on Bonaire

as of August 11, 2020

452 tested.	447 negative.
5 positive	0 active

Large crowd attends Taste of Bonaire



Marleen G. displayed her hand crafted colorful, Murano glass jewelry and shadow boxes. The unique little boxes hold delicately crafted animals made from Murano glass. There are turtles, pufferfish, pelicans, octopus, flamingos, donkeys, seahorses and even bats depicted in their own environment. Marleen said if placed in the window, light is reflected through the glass animals. Contact Marleen at 599-982-6848 after 2pm if you are interested in seeing the little works of art.



See more photos on



Tourism Corporation of Bonaire (TCB) welcomed residents and island guests to their first Taste of Bonaire of the summer on August 1 in Wilhelmina Plaza. All the regular food and craft vendors were on hand in addition to some new ones. No social distancing was possible due to the large number of people and there were very few masks worn, if any, in the large crowd. Some people stayed for a short time or chose to enjoy their "taste" of local food along the waterfront while others said they took it home to escape the many people.

Fundashon Limpi i Bunita, Clean Coast Bonaire and Boneiru Duradero (BD) conducted a survey about single use plastics and participants received a reusable fold-up bag. The survey is still available online on the organizations' individual Facebook pages. (related story page 2)

Two different age groups from Dance and More performed for the crowd, Miss Tourism Rayshantaly Coffie made a guest appearance and the band Fenty entertained. *Story and photos Julie Morgan*



All natural Tropical Nature Sunscreen was developed by residents and husband and wife team Dorian Crespo and Francisco Zavala and to help Save the Reef. The product is available in many stores on Bonaire.

FOR SALE Kaya Piedra Precioso 2 Spacious Home



- Location : Republiek
- Living area: +/- 341 m2 / 3671 sq. ft.
- 5 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage / carport

- Lot size: 1929 m2 / 20761 sq. ft. lease land
- Structurally sound building
- Needs renovation

3D tour



Listed for \$305,000 US Dollar

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 http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire

Government continues to help businesses survive

The government is continuing its proactive efforts to help businesses in the BES Island stay afloat through the pandemic. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) has announced another regulation to assist business cover their fixed costs. Additional compensation is available as a one-off payment covering the period June 13 – October 12. The amounts can range from \$500 to \$55,000, depending on the business's history and needs. For support with submitting the application, contact the Chamber of Commerce on Bonaire at steunloket@kvkbonaire.com. *DMR*

St. Maarten welcomes first flight from US

A Jet Blue flight landed on St. Maarten last week carrying 536 passengers from the U.S., the first to arrive since March. Almost simultaneously the U.S. issued a blanket covid level-three warning against travel to Aruba (510 new cases*), Curaçao (2 new cases*), and St. Maarten (78 new cases*). The arriving passengers were required to fill out an online health form and upload negative results of a valid test, performed by a certified lab, within 72 hours preceding departure.

People from both sides of the border have been protesting St. Martin's closure between the French and Dutch sides.

Because of the many people needing hospitalization on St. Maarten for the corona infection, ZVK has suspended sending insured persons from St. Eustatius and Saba on elective medical referrals to St. Maarten. They are being sent to hospitals on Bonaire, Curaçao or Aruba instead. *DMR*

**New cases recorded from July 24 to August 9*

Bonaire shelters planes during hurricane

Bonaire allowed Seaborne Airlines of Puerto Rico to shelter five of its planes from hurricane Hanna at BIA. The flight crews were required to quarantine while on the island. Boats and their crews are allowed the same shelter, subject to the same rules.

Hanna was ninth tropical storm this year. Never before has the ninth storm come this early in the hurricane season. *DMR*

Cabinet says equal rights fully protected in BES

A story has appeared in the online publication Koninkrijk.nu under the title: Cabinet is in no hurry to guarantee equal rights on Bonaire, Statia and Saba. The piece says that at the time of the 10-10-10 negotiations certain questions were left

unanswered in the human rights agreement because of "special circumstances that make the Caribbean Netherlands essentially different from the European Netherlands." Nevertheless, according to the Cabinet, human rights in the BES are fully protected by the Netherlands and the EU. Therefore there's no urgency in updating the local agreement. *DMR*

Van der Horst leaves R&D

Effective August 1, Etienne van der Horst completed his work as R&D Director a.i. at the Spatial Planning & Development Directorate (R&O) and is returning to Curaçao. Under his guidance R&O (formerly DROB) was reorganized into an efficient and professional agency that serves the island with high standards of integrity. A sampling of his many achievements includes the modernizing the land policy, establishing road maintenance and road safety programs, creating the rent committee and the island Nature Plan, and professionalizing the LVV Service. A new director, whose appointment has yet to be finalized, will take office on September 1. *DMR*

Venezuelans try to leave Curaçao, sink

Three people were rescued by the Coast Guard the morning of July 31 after their vessel capsized in the dark, three hours after departing Curacao. The three were Venezuelans who had been living on Curacao for two years. Three months ago they bought the sailboat TISORANJE, loaded it with food and clothing for their families, and attempted to sail to Venezuela. *Source, BES Reporter. DMR*

First WEB blackout in five years hits island

A total power blackout struck Bonaire at 8 am Friday, July 31, 2020, the result of a "probable" failure at the Contour-Global power plant according to WEB. By 9:30 WEB was gradually restoring power neighborhood by neighborhood. At 12:50 the whole island was back on full power. WEB recently celebrated its fifth consecutive year without a blackout. *DMR*

August fuel prices announced

Effective August 7 you will pay less for propane and gasoline but more for diesel and kerosene. Prices for small consumption are:

Gasoline 104.20 USDct per liter.
Kerosene 48.20 USDct per liter.
Diesel 61.60 USDct per liter.
LPG 100LBS 35.61 USD per cylinder.
LPG 20LBS 7.77 USD per cylinder.



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

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

On Monday, July 27 a home on Kaya Grandi was burgled sometime between 8:30 am and 4 pm. Thieves stole a laptop, a wristwatch and two wallets.

During the night hours from Wednesday, July 29 to Thursday July 30, the windshield of a car near Kaya Kariñoso was destroyed.

On Friday, July 31, theft of five wheel bolts and a license plate numbered V-2505 was reported. It is believed that the theft occurred between July 27 and 29, when the car was parked at a home on Kaya Ukulele. Theft of the wheel bolts came to light when the left rear wheel came loose from under the car while driving.

On Tuesday, August 4, 200m goat netting was stolen from a kunuku in Tra'i Montaña. Thieves probably removed the mesh that was stretched around a site on Saturday, August 1 between 9 am and 1 pm.

In the morning of Thursday, August 6, theft was reported in the Kaya Monsignor Nieuwindt in a supermarket. Two men took a bottle of whiskey and a bottle of brake fluid.

Arrests

In the morning hours of Thursday, July 30, a man, 36, was arrested in connection with embezzlement and deception. The investigation is ongoing.

On Thursday, July 30, a man was arrested around 8 pm in connection with threats and destruction.

On Saturday, August 1, police confiscated a scooter. After the seizure of the scooter, a few people present at an entertainment venue on Kaya Nikiboko North started to insult and threaten the officers. Two men aged 22 and 21 fiercely resisted arrest. Others continued to threaten, and one threw a rock at the officers, hitting the back of an officer's head. Investigations in this case are ongoing and multiple arrests may be made.

On Sunday, August 2, around 1 am, after the Bolas game, a brawl began. Plainclothes police officers on the scene tried to appease the participants and were threatened by bystanders. Apparently at one point a bottle was thrown at one of the plainclothes agents. In response, he drew his firearm to calm the situation. Investigation in this case is ongoing.

At about 4:15 am on Sunday, August 2, on Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez, a man, 50, was arrested for public intoxication, showing reckless driving and not following a police order. A patrol officer saw the vehicle stationary in the left

lane as a traffic hazard. When the police signaled the driver to stop, he started driving dangerously away at high speed. After a brief chase in which the suspect repeatedly ignored the police order to stop, the suspect was stopped and arrested. The suspect was unable to take a breathalyzer. His car was confiscated.

On Tuesday, August 4, a man, 46, was arrested for non-compliance with the suspension conditions.

Arrests in the ongoing case "Paraguay": Following the searches on July 15 in the "Paraguay" case, a woman, 47, and a man, 67, were arrested August 4.

Traffic accidents & violations

At around 4:30pm on Tuesday, July 28, a car was reported to have overturned on E.E.G Boulevard. The driver said he lost control of the steering wheel. The driver had an eyebrow wound and was otherwise stable. The driver was transported to the hospital for further inspection.

On Monday, August 3, two cars collided on the E.E.G. Bulevar. One of the occupants complained of leg pain and was taken to the hospital by the ambulance. Both cars had serious damage.

In the morning of Thursday 6 August, a car and scooter collided at the roundabout on Kaya Nikiboko South. The car did not give priority to the scooter driving on the roundabout. The scooter driver complained of back pain and was taken to hospital by the ambulance. The driver of the car received an official report for driving without a valid driver's license.

On Thursday, August 6, between 6:30 and 8 pm, at Kaya Korona, Kaya J.N.E. Craane and in the Center area police held traffic controls to check for child seats. A total of 20 vehicles were checked to make people aware of the safety of children in the car. A few people received a warning, but many people already use child seats.

Drug arrest at BIA

On Thursday August 6, a 36-year-old Dutch man was arrested at Bonaire International Airport (BIA) on suspicion of possession or smuggling of narcotics. (Opium Act 1960 BES).

Douane Caribisch Nederland (Customs CN) made the arrest and confiscated approximately 1000 grams of soft drugs. The suspect was handed over to the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar). Soft drugs include, for example, hash, marijuana, sleeping pills and sedatives.

Did You Know that owls, symbols of wisdom in many cultures, aren't all that intelligent?

Did you know that owls, symbols of wisdom in many cultures, aren't actually all that intelligent? Compared to other birds their brains are relatively small for their body size and they are difficult to train. But what they lack in smarts, they more than make up for in incredible adaptations.

Owls, cousins of hawks, eagles, and falcons, are birds of prey, mostly hunting small mammals, that have conquered nearly all corners of the world. There are over 240 species of owls and they are present on every continent except Antarctica. Contrary to popular belief owls can actually hunt at any time of the day. The reason most owls are nocturnal is that this is the time when their prey is most active. Another benefit of hunting at night is that there is less competition. They are the only bird of prey that hunts in darkness! To help them find their prey, owls have some pretty impressive adaptations. One of the first and most distinctive owl features are their incredibly large eyes. An owl's eyes can be up to 70% of their skull. In comparison, our eyes make up only 5% of our skulls. These large eyes allow owls to collect as much light as possible from their environment and gifting them with excellent night vision up to 2.5 times brighter than what we can see.

This amazing night vision is definitely a plus, but it alone is not enough to explain the owl's success. Owls also have excellent hearing thanks to their satellite disk shaped heads: their entire heads are designed for listening. So much so that for certain frequencies their hearing can be up to 10X more sensitive than ours and even better than that of dogs and cats. The owl's unusual head shape helps to amplify sound and focus it towards their ears. Some owls have one ear placed higher than the other. This helps them to not only identify the direction a sound is coming from, but also the height of the sound. Owls also have a very flexible neck that can rotate 270 degrees allowing the owls to pinpoint the exact direction of the sound and better focus their hearing and vision on the source. Their hearing is so good they can find their prey through layers of snow without ever seeing it.

While owls are not classified as the most intelligent of birds, that honor belongs to the crows and the parrots, they do have a formidable memory. While flying over their territory they create detailed mental maps that allow them to dodge obstacles even if they can't see them. When an owl pounces on its prey, it does so with so much precision and force, almost 12 times its body weight,



Barn owl near Arawak. Photo taken by STINAPA biologist Paulo Bertuol.

that the prey is often killed on impact. Barn owls in particular, the owl species found on Bonaire, have specialized wings that enable them to display some pretty spectacular aerial acrobatics. Owls are one of the few bird species that can take off vertically. Their wings, relatively large compared to their body, allow owls to fly slowly and controlled, ready to drop down at any moment to catch their prey. In addition, they have special feathers that reduce turbulence and noise while they fly. Their flight is so silent that the prey often doesn't hear them until it's too late. This silent, slow, and controlled flight is a crucial part of the owl's hunting strategy. When taken together these adaptations really help make owls the undisputed masters of the night and one of the most powerful birds of prey on the planet.

Despite their mastery of their environment, owls have not yet mastered the elements. The owl's biggest kryptonite, next to habitat destruction, is rain. Because their feathers are specialized for silent flight, they can't also be waterproof. When it's raining they also can't hear their prey. Wet weather can be fatal to owls and is one of the main reasons that owlets, owl chicks, don't survive their first year. Luckily that is not such a problem for Bonaire's owls. When you're out at night make sure to keep an eye out. While you certainly won't hear them coming, you can occasionally see a barn owl fly by. It really is a sight to behold.

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



Letters & 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic An opportunity for Bonaire to practice by Malcolm Wilson

Is it just me thinking this, or is Bonaire's public health minimally affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes, we are still dealing with an economic, financial and social disruption. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our island's way of doing business and our way of life in a profound way. We have gone from social and economic movement, to an abrupt halt, to gaining momentum again through the partial re-opening of our borders. And ever since, Paradise (also known as Bonaire) has not been the same...

So what's the issue?

Have you been to any public events lately?

Do you feel that we, as a community, are adequately adhering to our government's social distancing and hygienic rules and regulations?

No, our behavior is not getting us in trouble, at least not yet. But, what if we are confronted with a sudden COVID-19 outbreak? How many COVID-19 cases can our hospital responsibly handle? And how fast can an outbreak spread, if not swiftly and properly contained?

What's the opportunity?

To avoid further negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to dodge a local outbreak. But if an outbreak does happen, we want to contain it with minimum damage. Our responsible behavior (as individuals and as a community) will have a direct impact on COVID-19's influence in all areas of our lives.

To date the global COVID-19 pandemic has had a minimal impact on our public health. The opportunity we have right now is to protect that minimal impact. We can enhance our focus and responsible behavior as to our social distancing, hygienic rules and regulations. Yes, we are practicing this already, in general. But, does practice make perfect? No,

not necessarily.

Vince Lombardy, the legendary American Football coach, is quoted as saying "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect."

In American football team practice, the team protects its red jersey-ed quarterback. And, everyone knows that you are not allowed to hit the quarterback, under any circumstance. This rule creates a "safe" environment for the quarterback to focus and practice honing his craft.

In an official game, all bets are off. The game is faster, stressful and the opposing team's main goal is to sack the quarterback and disrupt his success on the field.

Because we are not currently dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak, the quarterback (Bonaire and its community) still has on a red jersey. Fortunately we are not in a pressured situation, where we can easily lose our focus and composure. So we can now practice "safely," in a controlled environment, honing our craft.

Let us all enhance our focus and responsible behavior (social distancing and hygienic rules and regulations) for everyone's protection.

During game time (the outbreak we all want to avoid), the quality of our "perfect practice" (enhanced focus and responsible behavior) will largely determine how well we play and win the game (beating COVID-19).

Together, let's win this game. We got this!

Malcolm Wilson is an inspirational speaker, success coach and certified John Maxwell speaker, coach and teacher. Born and raised in Bonaire, his purpose in life is to inspire, equip and empower students and adults to be successful in school, at work and in life. Malcolm defines success as "Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people."

Dutch police complete mission on St. Maarten

Dutch police officers and support staff, sent to St. Maarten to reinforce security and safety following Hurricane Irma in 2017, stayed on for three years afterwards. They helped the KPSM implement their recovery plan and assist with the assessment of the damage to the police building. Subsequently the Dutch police helped KPSM implement new policing strategies and crisis management structures. They also provided training in crisis management, forensic procedures, business operations, and other police functions.

The detachment of 15 Police Officers and three support staff have finished their work and on August 5 they departed for the Netherlands. At a farewell ceremony Minister of Justice Anna Richardson thanked them. "The support we've experienced over the last years has been invaluable. Today, on behalf of the Government of St. Maarten, the Ministry of Justice, and the People of St. Maarten, I want to express my gratitude for all your hard work and dedication to country St. Maarten. . . the KPSM has learned a lot from you." *Source, BES Reporter. DMR*



Reef Glimpses

A History of Fish Feeding on Bonaire: How we learned what we learned: Part 1



One of our Nassau grouper friends on San Salvador (the Bahamas). Photo by ? 1979 or so

When I began dive guiding, on San Salvador in the Bahamas in the late 1970's, we really enjoyed the Nassau groupers. On a few dive sites there were groupers we knew as individuals and whom we dive guides would feed by hand, so our divers had great opportunities to interact with and photograph Nassau groupers. "Feed by hand" meant exactly that: we'd offer the food and a grouper would suck it out of our hands.

When I came to Bonaire, fish feeding was different: our guest divers themselves were bringing down whatever food scraps they had collected, to feed the fish. The divers would descend, pull the scraps out, and cast them into the water. Initially, a few parrotfish would gently nibble the food, then the wrasses arrived, then the coney and hinds. Eventually, though, the yellowtail snappers noticed what was going on. Once yellowtails become accustomed to scatter-feeding,

no other fish has a chance because the yellowtails are smarter, faster, greedier, and much more motivated to get to scattered food before any other fish.

There are two main problems with scatter-feeding: first, even when it works as designed, there's no interaction whatsoever between the fish and the divers. What the fish are concentrating on is finding a piece of food and gobbling it down before someone else does. That's the second problem: the competitive situation that's created. Scatter-feeding is competitive feeding; it generates a yellowtail snapper version of the shark feeding frenzy. The goal of every fish in such a competition is to gulp down any piece of food before another fish can,

which, in practice, translates to, "Gobble first, taste later, and shove everyone else out of the way." I brought a wad of paper down once, and pushed it into the water in front of me. A gang of yellowtails immediately zoomed over; the Leader triumphantly sucked down the paper – and spit it out. The Assistant Leader smugly gulped the paper – and spit it out. The Assistant Assistant, same thing. After about three more yellowtails rejected the paper, the rest gave up on it. (Note: no yellowtails, other fishes, or any living creatures were harmed

Reef Glimpses, continued on page 8



Yellowtail snappers compete with Southern stingrays for snacks at Cayman's Stingray City – but the rays are more cooperative models.



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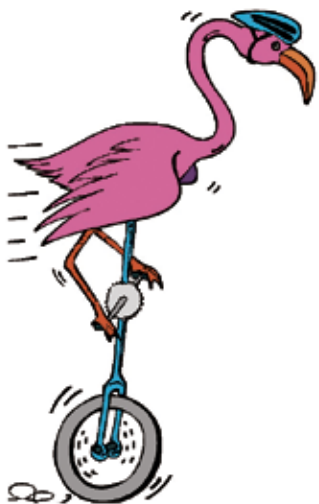
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Dive Friends Retail moves



Dive Friends is proud to announce that their new Dive Retail Store is open and ready to welcome you.

Located on Kaya Gobernador Debot, across from Between 2 Buns, the Dive Retail is fully stocked with equipment from ScubaPro, Cressi, Hollis and other great dive equipment brands. With years of expertise, our retail team will provide you the service you need to find the best dive gear to fit your needs.

The location boasts a fully equipped Dive Photography school with instructors well versed in helping you get the best underwater shots. Dive Friends retail has a range of camera setups and

accessories from top of the line Olympus, Ikelite, Sea & Sea and Sealife. We can get you moving in the right direction to capture the best underwater imagery.

At Dive Friends we also understand that getting you the equipment you need is only the start of our responsibility to you. Dive Retail is ready to help you with our fully authorized and factory trained service center team.

The Dive Friends Retail store is open seven days a week from 8am to 5pm.

For more information pop in and pay us a visit or email us at diveretail@divefriendsbonaire.com

Bonaire's donkeys, continued from page 1

tion as a separate breed and to keep the breed in a reserve where the donkeys are kept as much as possible, in their traditional habitat. Balanced choices will have to be made between the size of a vital and healthy population and nature objectives within the reserve."

Both reports present the same donkey policy advice; to find a large protected area where they can roam free, live in their family groups but, in a fenced area. The Donkeys on Bonaire plan suggests an area such as Brasi labra near Rincon.

Currently there are over 700 donkeys living on the 160 acre property of the DSB. Three corral type areas with a few stables are provided for the injured, mothers and babies, orphans and donkeys with other illnesses. The animals are fed three to four times daily and are well cared for by staff and volunteers. The remaining fenced acreage is home to healthy donkeys. Tours available daily, visit the DSB Facebook page.

As far as the numbers for the wild or feral population of donkeys, Fernando Simal of Wild Conscience conducted a probabilistic study for scientific population estimates. Simal says this was not a census. The most likely number is between 750 and 1300 individuals living in the wild. *Julie Morgan*

Donkeys on Bonaire - report

<https://www.dcbd.nl/sites/www.dcbd.nl/files/documents/Ezels%20op%20Bonaire%20def.pdf>

To read the Back to Nature plan email: BDPLF@hotmail.com

**This is a framework for the Caribbean Netherlands. Each island will set their own priorities within this framework and these priorities will be concretized through local island implementation plans and implemented with support of the national government*

Strategic goal 1 - Investing in a resilient coral reef to enhance well-being in the CN

1.1. Control erosion and run-off
1.1.1 Control free roaming animals
a) Keep all livestock kept within fenced-off properties by 2024
b) All feral free roaming grazers removed on Bonaire, Saba & Sint Eustatius (i.e. goats & sheep, donkeys, pigs, cows) by 2030
c) Investing in a professional and sustainable livestock industry (e.g. slaughterhouse, fodder, fences, enforcement, veterinary services) by 2024, water supply and fodder production organized sustainably by 2030

Excerpt from NMPB_CN



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- o Beautifully landscaped garden
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by this event. The paper was brought out of the sea and deposited in an appropriate receptacle, since no recycling was available at the time.)

The yellowtails quickly learned that a diver about to release food would stop swimming, so they'd mob any hovering diver. Imagine how much joy that mobbing would bring to a photographer working for just the right perspective on a huge purple tube sponge. First shot, the sponge. Second shot, the sponge and ten thousand yellowtails, blocking the lens, blocking the strobe light, tasting the photographer's hair (just in case), photo-bombing before the term existed.

Lesson # 1: the disadvantages of scatter-feeding outweigh any advantages. Tossing food into the water for the fishies to eat creates a competitive situation in which neither the fish nor the divers are particularly comfortable, and which does nothing to initiate or strengthen any relationship between fish and divers. In addition, most

food scraps are pretty unnatural food for fish.

Dee Scarr

Next issue: *What we learned about feeding morays, and how we learned it.*

A note about what's going on underwater these days: first of all, the corals are spawning. There's a schedule in the online version of The Bonaire Reporter. See those rocklike formations behaving like the living colonies they are.

Second: on each of my last two dives, I saw pairs of spotted scorpionfish. By their posture each of the pair was definitely aware of the other; I think courtship is going on. I also saw a courting pair of maculated flounders on the sand in only 10' (3m) of depth. Wouldn't it be nice (but weird) if the fish spawned on as precise a schedule as the coral does?

Pipita di kònkòmber prize awarded

The Arte di Palabra Committee and SKAL have given the 2020 'Pipita di Kònkòmber' (Cucumber Seed Prize) to Ms. Denise de Jongh Rekwest for her contributions to the Papiamentu language.

This year, SKAL, the Culture, Art and Literature department, in collaboration with the committee "Arte di Palabra" (word art) celebrated the 15th anniversary of Arte di Palabra Bonaire. Arte di Palabra is a competition in the field of literature, poetry and short stories.

Ms. De Jongh Rekwest writes and publishes in Papiamentu stories for children, books and articles on etiquette. The Arte di Palabra competition between the ABC islands will take place on Bonaire on August 15, 2020.



Keep your neighborhood clean

Selibon initiated their neighborhood cleanup plan, "This is our neighborhood: clean and beautiful," in late June. The aim of the campaign is to make residents aware of how to keep their neighborhood clean.

In July, we targeted Antriol, specifically Antriol Pariba. Selibon cleaned several places and streets and now we are focusing on Antriol Pabou. The cleaning will take approximately one month and then we will turn our attention to the neighborhood Nort'i Saliña.

Selibon calls on all residents of Antriol Pabou, Den Tera and surroundings to begin cleaning their yards and around their houses. Selibon will be coming on weekdays to collect all waste. Check the Facebook page of Selibon NV regularly, so that you know which day Selibon will be in your neighborhood.



August
10 - 14

TA NOS BARIO:
LIMPI I BUNITA

Please put your garbage outside your gate.
In the week of **August 10 - 14**, Selibon NV will be cleaning in the following streets:

- KAMINDA DJABOU
- KAYA GRISTELCHI
- KAYA SABALO
- KAYA BERS
- KAYA SKANDELCHI
- KAYA BAYENA
- KAYA KOKOLISHI
- KAYA KORKOBA
- KAYA GRAMEL
- KAYA BARAKUDA
- KAYA MULATU
- KAYA KABIKUCHI

Pa mas informashon, chèk nos página di Facebook.
For more informashon, follow us on Facebook.

This campaign is in collaboration with the Public Entity Bonaire, Blue Destination, Fundashon Boneiru Limpí i Bunita and Fundashon Antriol Avanti.



A Garden? Just Do It!

In the mood for gardening?

In the mood for gardening? I am. Early in the morning I can't wait to put my raggedy garden clothes on and jump in the garden. It's always a surprise to find what happened during the night: seeds that popped up, young plants that grew bigger, fruits that fell or cuttings with some new life. Sometimes I find the fruit trees have blossomed or vegetables are ready to pick and ... iguanas that enjoyed their breakfast and birds that picked and dropped some fruits. Fresh blooming flowers are all over the yard, growing vigorously for the eyes and food for my soul. It creates such a happiness in me, being able to enjoy the early peaceful morning hours with all this nature vitamin around me.

They say, beauty belongs to the eyes of the beholder, which is a perfect truth when one is able to see the beauty of the creations of life in nature. And with all the rain Bonaire has turned into a green



With this rain local cucumbers will grow nice and fast.

valley with plants and flowers you don't see that often.

Ever smelled the earth after a rain shower early in the morning? It makes

me long for "purenness," like fresh baked bread and pure honey, rose tea and garden herbs.

Here is some helpful information for beginning gardeners.

Seeds to plant:

Vegetable seeds, herb seeds, flower seeds, flower bulbs, fruit seeds, tree and grass seeds.

Low maintenance plants:

Foliage plants, indoor plants, air purifier plants, ferns, flowering plants, cacti and succulents, bonsai plants.

Plant care: Pesticides and weedicides.

Plant protection: fungicides, thermicidid, fly catcher traps.

Plant growth: fertilizers, organic fertilizers, soil and manure, plant nutrition.

Symptoms caused by insects and pests:

- Curling and yellowing of leaves or vein and die back.
- Leaf curling and plant growth stunting.
- White wax coating on leaves and

stern.

- Holes in the leaves and fruits.
- White curved lines on leaves.

Symptoms caused by diseases:

- White powder on the surface of leaf, flowers and stalks.
- Black spots on leaves, branches or shoots die from the tip inward.
- Reddish powdery spots / spores appear on leaves.
- Yellow to white cotton like patches on the leaves.
- Roots are rotten and collapse the whole plant.

Necessary for plants: minerals potassium, phosphor and calcium.

So I hope this information helps you out with certain problems you can experience in your garden. Oh yes, and don't forget our typical Bonairian garden friends the iguanas, lizards and birds. But don't give up, because then you lose forever. Start now, just do it. *Angliet, Nature lover*

What's Happening

Kids fly off to school

Library re-opens

August 14-15	Kant'i Awa snack Regatta - Saturday and Sunday See story below
Saturday August 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. Enjoy delicious food, live music, local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations and an exhibition about Rincon. Fun, relaxed and entertaining for kids and adults alike. Donations are welcome. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE. For a complete schedule of events check Mangazina di Rei Cultural Park on Facebook. Last Saturday of every month.
Sunday August 30	Sunrise Hike of Brandaris, Washington-Slagbaai Park 5-8am \$10, STINAPA (+599) 717 8444
Sunday September 6	Bonaire Day (legal holiday)



Ge-rhoda Coffie and Julius Silberie head off to the Netherlands to attend school. On the 5th of August, 35 students from Bonaire left for the Netherlands. One student has flown from Sint Eustatius to the Netherlands this year. They flew with KLM. After arriving, the students traveled to their respective student cities: Amsterdam, Delft, The Hague, Deventer, Dordrecht, Gouda, Groningen, Hoofddorp, Leeuwarden, Nijmegen, Rotterdam and Utrecht.

The Public Library is open to the public again, but with new opening hours. The new opening times are:

Monday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 Tuesday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Wednesday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Saturday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Closed on Sundays

Visit the Public Library for a lot of reading pleasure

Festival cancelled

The Bonaire Day Committee has cancelled the festival "Un kanto pa Boneiru" (A song for Bonaire). The committee considered running the festival via live streaming, but the number of registrations was too small.

They encourage all, adults and children alike, who want to participate in the festival next year to begin working on their composition and the accompanying arrangement. The Bonaire Day committee will announce via the media and the Facebook page of the Public Entity Bonaire when the registration will be opened for the festival "Un kanto pa Boneiru 2021."

For next year, the Bonaire Day committee hopes that this festival and also the Bonaire Day celebration can "continue with God's will in a way that gives more value to it, without any adjustments being necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

Every Saturday

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

Every Weekday

Washington Slagbaai Park will be open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm.

Clubs & meetings

Open Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa & Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All are welcome to attend.

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

Kanti' Awa holds Regatta

The roots of the Bonairean Regatta are set firmly along the boulevard of Playa Pabou.

The Regatta is about sailing, but it is also about the ambiance on and along the shore. Kant'i Awa snack is organizing a Regatta this weekend to showcase the sailing, but also to bring back home the local feel of the celebration on shore. This two day event will be Saturday and Sunday, August 14th and 15th at Kant'i Awa snack, next to Kas di Regatta. There will be yachts, sunfish, optimist, wind and kite foils as well as

micro boats. Besides the sailing, there will be Kayak and stand up paddleboard races. We have Kayaks and boards, so come and compete! To entertain those watching, there will be music, drinks and BBQ all weekend long. Come enjoy the sea, come to sail, come to watch or take part in one of the many activities at the shore.

Sign up at Kant'i Awa! For more info look at the Kant'i Awa Facebook page. Or, feel free to contact the Kant'I Awa team via What's app +5997863005 or call to +5997955250. Pam Teitel



Upcoming Events

Oct. 17th Quarterly Clean Up Dive
 Nov. 20th Instructor Development Course

**Add your event to this page.
 Let us know what's happening.
info@bonairereporter.com**

Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Art and disability.



Every five year the parents association on Curaçao organizes a talent show. The organizing committee feels that everyone has the right to express themselves artistically. It does not matter what kind of disability one suffers from as long as you present something amazing.

On Bonaire, MiVaBo (association for the handicapped) organized a painting competition last year to celebrate the International Day for the Handicapped. The paintings were exhibited in the SKAL museum and it was a great success. The theme was: "This is my life". The artists had great fun and felt appreciated. Later the paintings were printed on mugs and t-shirts and then sold in a fundraiser.

In general we only hear about able-bodied

artists. This gives everyone the wrong idea because in creating art there is something for everybody.

On Belgian television, there is a very unique and popular show called "Down the Road". The presenter, along with an expert on behavior, organizes a trip with six young adults who have Down Syndrome. The objective is to learn that one can overcome anything and reach specific goals. This proves that persons with mental retardation can do a lot, without their parents being there for them all the time. It is a heart-breaking, honest show and once you see it, you are a fan forever.

This made me think; why not on Bonaire? I remember a wonderful poem, written by a client from FKPD. And then

there are all the wonderful paintings created by a large group of elderly and people with mental retardation. I am sure there are many more artists who can create amazing art.

Why not organize a great event and do so every few years? Accessibility on the stage; and not only as a visitor.

To get you in the mood I want to share with you a wonderful poem:

Who is Disabled?

Who is disabled?
 Is it me, or is it you?
 Should disability be based
 On an anatomical stock-take,
 Or based on what you can do?

*For I can climb mountains,
 I can soar through the sky,
 And I can slay dragons,
 With just a blink of an eye,
 I can overcome barriers,
 Fight against impossible odds,
 Ignore patronizing glances
 And condescending nods.*

*So who is disabled?
 Is it me, or is it you?
 It is completely subjective,
 It's just your point of view...*


Poem by Clive Blake

So, let's start thinking, planning, organizing working and show the world that EVERYBODY can.
 Ria Evers-Dokter.

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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CLEAN COAST BONAIRE



Sunday, September 13 at 4pm
Te Amo Beach

Your business here.

Only \$22 an issue for 3 months.

Pet cremation service now offered on Bonaire

Through good times and hard times our pets have been there to support and love us unconditionally. They grow up with us, grow old with us and become beloved family members. When a family member this close to you passes away, it can be very heartbreaking and difficult.

There is a new option on Bonaire to consider for our pet's care after the loss of a best pet friend that may help ease some of the stress involved in arrangements.

Peace for Paws is a service branch of Consuelo Memorial Services in Kralendijk that caters to the specific needs of pet cremation. Founded on Bonaire in 2012 for human memorial services, Consuelo Memorial is a family owned business managed by brothers Leroy and Rene Sedney. In the past month, they have expanded to offer cremation services for pets. According to Leroy, offering this service took several years to get the appropriate permits and approvals since this is the first and only service of its kind on Bonaire.

Until now, grieving pet guardians had few options when their pet companion died. Most of the time the owners arranged and carried out much of the work themselves (as with private burial), which added more stress to the grieving process. Or the island veterinarians offer disposal of the remains through Selibon via mass incineration. This process however well-intentioned, convenient and free, is often a very difficult choice to make since pet guardians cannot receive the remains of their animal.

Leroy with two dogs of his own and Rene with four dogs both understand the lifelong bond between man and pet. They recognized the relief they could bring by offering another option for grieving owners losing their pets on Bonaire.

Peace for Paws offers different price points based on the size of the animal beginning at \$200 for a pet under 11kg. Each cremation is completely private (only your pet) and so the cost covers the labor and energy-intensive process of operating the machine for one animal. In most cases the "cremains" are returned to the owner the very next day or at the most 48 hours.

Expressing his desire to help smooth the difficult process of grieving, Leroy said, "We just do what the client wants and needs."

Peace for Paws is already in the pro-



cess of creating a special reflection room where clients can spend some time alone with their pet before the cremation. They also offer the option of witnessing the cremation itself for a small additional fee. Other services include optional home or veterinary office pickup, pet urns, pawprints and there are more in the works as they continue to grow and anticipate demand.

When asked about what advice they would share about coping with pet loss, the brothers said, remembering the nice moments together and let time help you heal.

Leroy also said that, "Your pet only truly dies if you forget about him," and Rene added in agreement, "Yes, and when you remember him, he is always near in your heart."

For more detailed information on the services Peace for Paws provides, visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Peace4PawsPetCremation-Bonaire> or contact them via WhatsApp 786-4844 or by phone 717-3243. Be sure to take a look at their memorial "wall" where passed pets are immortalized and loved ones can honor their memory. *Story and Photo By Amy Weir*

Disclaimer This story is in no way sponsored or paid for by Peace for Paws or Consuelo Memorial.

The person and animal in the photo are happy and healthy!



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

Pet of the Week: Jessa

Dear dog lovers,

My name is Jessa, I am a healthy, sterilized female about four years old. I am a lot to love and have a lot to give. I have lived at the shelter for almost a year now, and I think it's really time to have my own family again.

I like to go for walks and have a swim and I also love to cuddle and play with toys. I am good with male dogs, but other females I don't really like them that much...because I prefer to be the only "Queen"!

I'm very gentle with kids and like them all. Are you looking for a queen to guard your castle and have fun with? Then please come and visit me at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A, Mon.-Fri. 9 am-12 pm and 3-5 pm, Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Or contact the An-

imal Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989.
Story and photo by Sanne Attevelt



Ask a Geek by Brian Niessen Zap, the lights dim and fade to black!



Last week we had a serious power outage on Bonaire for the first time in five years. Once the power came back on, I was busy helping people get their computers and other electronic gear back online.

One would expect that everything would just "come back on" like it used to - but alas, those days are long gone.

Some of the problems that occurred were:

- Power transformers/adapters burning out. This can happen twice. Once when the power goes on and off or "browns out" during the time before it actually goes off. And secondly when the power turns back on, and can get a spike of quite high voltage. (The best thing to do when the power does go off, is unplug everything electronic to save it from the high voltage when it comes back.) To help stop the high voltage spikes, you can buy a power strip/bar that has a high-voltage protection, but be aware that they are like a fuse, and only work ONCE - usually with no indication that they are no longer protecting your gear after the 10 cent metal oxide resistor burns out.

- WiFi routers losing their memory. Most WiFi routers have battery backed up or Flash memory, but some of them

do lose it after four plus hours of not being plugged in. This means that the WiFi channels and passwords are all lost and have to be reprogrammed.

- Hard Disks crashing. The hard disk in your computer is spinning very fast, and if the power goes out while writing data, the data is no longer being written properly and can corrupt files. This is why a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) on a Desktop computer, or a good battery on a laptop is important. Even when the power goes out, the computer can stay working for long enough for you to shut it down properly.

- Smart TV's losing their programming. Just like the WiFi routers, they have memory, but usually only for a short time, so all of the channels need to be added back in.

- Bluetooth not paired anymore. Same as the Smart TV's and WiFi routers. Memory loss.

So, hopefully we don't have too many power outages, but when we do, go outside and enjoy the weather with a cold drink (but don't keep the fridge door open too long).

**Need help?
See the Geek's business ad on page 10.**

Please help the Animal shelter continue to operate. Donate in person via our website <http://www.animalshelterbonaire.com> with PayPal or European credit card, or a bank transfer:
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Consider buying real estate?

This is what you need to know

On Bonaire it is not always clear who is certified as a real estate broker and who is not. Working as a broker is a liberal (not registered) profession on the Island.

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April, May, & June Corals

Latin name	Common Name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM				DAYS AFM				DAYS AFM			
			CALENDAR DATE				CALENDAR DATE				CALENDAR DATE			
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis*</i>	Grooved Brain Coral	70 min BS-10 min AS	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	20-Apr	17-May	18-May	19-May	20-May	15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun
			18:48	18:48	18:48	18:48	18:53	18:53	18:53	18:54	19:01	19:01	19:01	19:02

*Monthly "DLAB" spawning has been observed from April to October in Curaçao, Bonaire, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. We don't yet know if this occurs across the entire region. New observations are highly encouraged!

July Corals

Latin name	Common Name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM													
			CALENDAR DATE													
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME		
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis*</i>	Grooved Brain Coral	70 min BS-10 min AS	4-Jul	5-Jul	6-Jul	7-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	10-Jul	11-Jul	12-Jul	13-Jul	14-Jul	15-Jul	16-Jul	17-Jul
			19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04	19:04

August Corals

Latin name	Common Name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM													
			CALENDAR DATE													
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME		
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis*</i>	Grooved Brain Coral	70 min BS-10 min AS	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug
			19:00	19:00	18:59	18:59	18:59	18:58	18:58	18:58	18:57	18:57	18:56	18:56	18:55	18:55

September Corals

Latin name	Common name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM													
			CALENDAR DATE													
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME		
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis*</i>	Grooved Brain Coral	70 min BS-10 min AS	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep
			18:45	18:44	18:44	18:43	18:43	18:42	18:41	18:40	18:40	18:39	18:38	18:38	18:37	18:36

October Corals

Latin name	Common Name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM													
			CALENDAR DATE													
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME		
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis*</i>	Grooved Brain Coral	70 min BS-10 min AS	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct
			18:25	18:24	18:24	18:23	18:22	18:22	18:21	18:20	18:20	18:19	18:19	18:18	18:18	18:17

November Corals

Latin name	Common name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM													
			CALENDAR DATE													
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME		
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis*</i>	Grooved Brain Coral	70 min BS-10 min AS	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov	9-Nov	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov
			18:10	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:09	18:08	18:08	18:08	18:08	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07	18:07

August/September/October Sponges, Gorgonians, & Others

Latin name	Common Name	Spawning Window	DAYS AFM													
			CALENDAR DATE													
			SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME	SUNSET TIME		
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber		3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug
			1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep

Legend

Days AFM: Days After the Full Moon
min BS = Minutes Before Sunset
min AS = Minutes After Sunset

Pale Blue: Spawning may be possible but more data are needed! This species is understudied on these dates and times. Please help us make new discoveries by diving these windows!

Pale Yellow: Spawning is possible - has been observed on these dates

Bright Orange: Spawning is likely - often observed on these dates

Red: Spawning is very likely - reliably observed on these dates

To Observe Spawning

- Make multiple dives on multiple nights
- Dive in a place with high coral cover
- Enter the water before predicted times
- Dive shallower than 50 feet to maximize bottom time
- Use a moderately bright dive light
- Scan the water column for clouds of spawn



Notes

- Predictions are based on observations from previous years but this does not guarantee spawning will occur. When in doubt, go for a dive!
- Spawning times vary based on local sunset times. To look up your local sunset times, visit www.sunandmoon.com.
- Your discoveries help coral research. Please report your spawning observations (species, date, time, location, and pictures if possible) to carmabilog@gmail.com. To contribute to the CRC spawning database, contact v.chamberland@secore.org
- Special thanks to everyone who contributed their spawning observations over the past 25+ years! We wish you a safe and productive spawning season!
- Citation: Vermeij, M.J.A., Chamberland, V.F., and Marhaver, K.L. "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean 2007–2020." CARMABI, Curacao.

Rutte: “The virus is advancing dangerously”

Zack Newmark, Curaçao Chronicle, Aug. 10, 2020

THE HAGUE - Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte held his first prime time press conference since June 24 on the state of the coronavirus pandemic in the Netherlands on Thursday. He used the hour-long opportunity both to chastise people for ignoring the advice to keep a physical distance from others, to stay home with health complaints, and to get tested when health symptoms arise.

“The virus is advancing dangerously. The data does not lie. The number of infections has been increasing for a few weeks and we are in danger of losing the gains we have made,” Rutte stated. “For God’s sake, let’s ensure together that the second lockdown is not necessary.”

Public health agency RIVM has estimated that roughly 16,500 people were contagious with the virus on July 31, a figure which quadrupled since July 1. Just last week, nearly 2,600 tested positive for the viral infection, up from 450 in the first week of July.

“The numbers are still such that we can keep it under control, but it should not continue to develop in this way,” Rutte said. “The numbers are increasing. We should not panic, but it is now moving fast,” he warned.

Health Minister Hugo de Jonge also used the moment to express irritation by the lack of cooperation reported by some health services when handling contact tracing of an infected patient. “People now have dozens of contacts who also do not answer the phone, so to speak. If, on the one hand, people complain that the investigation is taking too long, and on the other hand do not cooperate, then we are not doing the right thing. Hence the strict tone, because we have to find our discipline again,” he continued.

“The virus does not spread. We spread the virus. So guys, please use your common sense.”

CORONAVIRUS TESTING AT AIRPORTS

At the press conference, De Jonge stressed that people returning from areas where there are outbreaks of the SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus will need to stay home for two weeks and get tested by municipal health service GGD should they develop symptoms. The GGD will use airline passenger manifests to call travellers to see if they are complying with the advice to self isolate.

“We have thought about the possibility of a quarantine obligation,” De Jonge said, but added that it did not seem logistically possible. “When people come back from ‘Orange’ countries, they will be met by people who will warn them and tell them what to do.”

Passengers will also be able to get tested for the viral infection at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, and later other airports, but no passengers will be forced to get tested regardless of their departure country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues travel advisories based on a color scale where red is the most severe, orange equates to advice of only visiting that place if absolutely necessary, and yellow for places where caution should be maintained due to specific local risks. Since travel became more possible with countries lifting some entry and exit prohibitions, the Dutch government has advised that travellers follow both local rules as well as the national advice from the Dutch Cabinet.

So far, a few hundred passengers have tested positive for the viral infection within two weeks of arriving in the Netherlands. That makes up a small portion of the six thousand people who tested positive for the virus in July.

SOME BUSINESSES TO CLOSE FOR 14 DAYS WHEN INFECTIONS ARISE

Rutte also said it was disappointing to see that compliance with rules in the catering industry has decreased. Because of that, and the increasing number of coronavirus infections, all recreation businesses will have to close for up to two weeks if infections are discovered at those locations. These include catering locations, museums, cinemas, live theaters, and theme parks.

Additionally, all visitors to cafes, bars, restaurants and hotels will be required to provide their name and contact details upon entry to make source and contact tracing easier when a patient’s history is researched. This was already mandatory in some municipalities, but now it will be the norm nationally. “The critical point has not yet been reached, but we are going to take measures locally and regionally,” Rutte said.

For new higher education students, introduction weeks and initiation activities at the beginning of the school year will be strictly limited, but not cancelled. Student organizations and associations which want to hold events, will have to do so without alcohol. The events, which in the past have been known to continue on for hours, if not days, must come now come to an end by 10 p.m.

Physical activities will also only be permitted in very small student groups.

MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONS ARE AN IMPORTANT LINE OF DEFENSE

Because of the large regional differences, with more infections in the Randstad and very few in the north-eastern provinces, Rutte said the Cabinet will rely on the country’s mayors and the 25 regional security offices to build up new restrictions as they see fit. These can include mandating that people wear face masks, stricter enforcement of social distancing measures, and banning audiences from sports competitions. Mayors can also cut down on opening hours of stores, restaurants, cafes and

bars.

“Where it becomes necessary, we will scale up measures of a national nature,” Rutte said.

“Unlike in March, we know where the virus is and where it is growing,” De Jonge stated. “In recent weeks, this has been accelerating. Regions such as Rotterdam, Amsterdam and The Hague are cause for concern.”

De Jonge said that being able to identify where the worst clusters are located makes it easier to contain them, something which the government was not capable of doing back in March as cases skyrocketed and hospitals filled up. “But make no mistake: there is cause for concern,” he said. “We have to rediscover our discipline.”

Those three cities have been the most affected by the recent spate in new coronavirus infections which started on July 3, and have worsened every week since. Roughly half of all 110 hospital patients, including 29 in intensive care, are from Rotterdam or Amsterdam, the two cities which introduced mandatory face mask rules in certain neighborhoods starting on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister has repeatedly said he was not in favor of face masks citing research which suggests their effectiveness is limited. However he was interested in the possibility that the masks encourage people to remain socially distant from each other.

“The mask, probably, does very little to prevent the transmission of the virus,” Rutte said. “The one and a half meters is absolutely superior to the mask, which contributes little, but the mask can cause a change in behavior.”

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

De Jonge said he was optimistic that a successful vaccine would be created within the first few months of 2021. The Health Minister said the country is also in talks with organizations representing the development of ten different vaccines.

“These differ in the type of vaccine and the speed at which they are administered,” he said. While the country is working on behalf of all 27 member states of the European Union, he said the Netherlands is simultaneously monitoring the situation for its own national interests.

So far, the Netherlands, along with France, Italy, and Germany, has made one deal with AstraZeneca to purchase a vaccine being developed at Oxford University. Early results of that vaccine, named both AZD1222 and ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, have been promising.

Statement by the Lieutenant Governor 13 August 2020

Kralendijk - Today I would like to address a number of topics that are all related to COVID-19.

COVID-19 seems far away because there are currently no infections on Bonaire. At the same time, many residents on Bonaire are concerned because of the number of people with COVID-19 in Aruba, which means there is a chance that travelers will bring the virus to Bonaire. We are responsible for preventing the virus from spreading. We do this by keeping our distance from each other. This also means keeping your distance when greeting, so don't shake hands, hug, give a high five or elbow. It is also important to avoid crowds, because the virus can spread easily in groups. In addition, there are all kinds of hygiene measures such as regularly washing your hands with soap and water, not touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and sneezing and coughing in your elbow or paper tissues. Finally, do you have any complaints? Then stay at home and call the free number 0800-0800. If everyone follows these measures, we will make it very difficult for the virus to spread and protect ourselves and those around us.

Aruba

As of August 6, 2020, Bonaire has suspended the "air bubble" with Aruba due to the increase in the number of people with COVID-19. Aruba is now a high-risk country just like Sint Maarten. The airspace will remain open, but passengers are no longer allowed to travel freely from Aruba and Sint Maarten to Bonaire and vice versa. The decision comes after the number of cases of people infected with COVID-19 has drastically increased in Aruba.

Travelers between Aruba, Sint Maarten and Bonaire are advised to postpone their trip. Persons who have to come to Bonaire from Aruba or Sint Maarten for a special reason are obliged to complete the health declaration and are quarantined for 14 days as stated in the emergency ordi-

nance.

Anyone who has been to Aruba until August 5 and has returned should keep a close eye on their own health. If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, please report to Public Health via toll-free number 0800-0800. The same if you have visited the bars and gym that are classified as risk locations. If this is not the case, then - as always - keep your distance, do not go to large meetings, stay at home in case of complaints and call 0800-0800 immediately. Children who returned from Aruba last week and have not had direct contact with a positive person can go to school next week. If the children have been in contact with positively tested persons, the children should stay at home and contact the Public Health Department on free number 0800 0800.

Return to Bonaire

Residents of Bonaire who are still on Aruba can return to Bonaire with an exemption from the Island Governor. This exemption can be requested at repat@bonairegov.com

From the moment the airspace opened in July, it has already been indicated that travel takes place at your own risk. So there will be no financial support for people who cannot return. Residents of Aruba who are on Bonaire are responsible for arranging their return to Aruba.

Travel to Saba

With regard to travel to Saba, everyone who goes to must be quarantined because of an increase in infections within the "air bubble".

Acute and intensive care

The acute and intensive care is in order. The hospital has extra resources and staff and has thus expanded the IC capacity to seven IC beds. If more complex or different medical care is required, patients are flown to a hospital in the region. For this, two air ambulances are available 24/7 at

our airport. The non-COVID-19 care will continue as usual. Both flows of patients can be accommodated and treated. Because visiting specialists from Aruba are currently unable to come to Bonaire, the care in question is provided via remote digital consultations as much as possible.

Test Policy

Anyone with health problems that could indicate COVID-19 can be tested. These complaints are: cold in the nose, sore throat, cough, fever or increase, sudden loss of smell or taste. In case of complaints, call the toll-free number 0800-0800. This number is available every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. They are called back by a nurse from the Public Health department, who makes an appointment for the test.

Test lane

On Tuesday, September 18 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, people with minor health complaints can have themselves tested in the COVID-Drive Through. Call 0800-0800 for an appointment. People who have a fever and are quite ill should not wait on the test street, but stay at home and call 0800-0800. They are tested at home.

Back to school

It is important for children to go to school and to play, learn and exercise together. This is important for their health and for their development. Research has shown that children do not often transmit the virus. That is why the children of primary education and SGB can go to school as usual.

The measures taken before the school holiday are still in effect at the start of the new school year. For example, it concerns hygiene measures, keeping their distance and parents are not allowed in the schoolyard. It is of great importance that children who have a cold and a fever or cough do not go to school for a while but wait at home until the complaints have disappeared.

Events

We see that risk awareness is low among many people. This really needs to change. In other countries, group infections increase after events and other activities where many people gather. That is why social distance is immediately included in the emergency ordinance. We will be very cautious about granting permits for events and will look again at permits already issued. It is critically examined whether the organizer is able to organize the event in a safe and responsible manner to protect public health.

Businesses

Many companies on Bonaire are now taking their responsibility. Think of registering customers in restaurants and canceling events. I appreciate the companies doing this and hope other companies will follow suit. We need these good initiatives on the island to prevent the spread of the virus and to be able to conduct good source and contact research.

Motion D66

Yesterday, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a motion by D'66 in which a test obligation is set for all travelers to Bonaire. This is a good development for Bonaire to protect public health against COVID-19. We will continue to monitor developments and hope that the government will respond positively to this motion.

Finally

We are all done with COVID-19, but COVID-19 is not done with us yet. The virus is still there. Even if it is difficult, it is important that we stick to the measures. So avoid crowded places and keep five feet apart. Also indoors. This is the only way we protect each other and stop the spread of the virus. It is important that everyone realizes that we are responsible for our own health and that of our loved ones. Only together can we get COVID-19 under control.