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Photos: Julie Morgan

Why do they come?

Since the first dive operation was opened by Captain Don Stewart in 1963 at Divi Flamingo, Bonaire has attracted more divers every year. It wasn't always easy to get here but they came. Sound familiar? With Covid restrictions many countries were banned from visiting but some divers found a way even if they had to jump through a few hoops to get here. Everyone rejoiced when the first direct flights landed at Flamingo Airport on June 5; as that meant the return of divers after 15 long months. The resorts, hotels, restaurants, shops and rental car agencies were open for business again. It's been less than a month and the major resorts report 70 - 100 percent capacity while restaurants and shops buzz with activity again, thanks to the divers.

But why do they come? What makes Bonaire so unique that divers come once and then return again and again or even find a home here?

Bill LaBarge – New York



Bill LaBarge made his first trip to Bonaire in 1972 after reading about Bonaire and Captain Don.

Relating that first trip, Bill said, "OMG, it was just gorgeous and you could actually see fish swimming in the shallows. The fish, the color, the ice blue water... I was in heaven. I had never seen anything like it."

Bill has returned every year since that first trip and was great friends with Captain Don until his death.

"I keep coming back because I can choose where and with whom I dive. I've dove most of my later years with Cat, [my wife] and friends. I hardly ever use dive boats

...Love diving with Bas Tol and the new wild side folks. But also love going up over BOPEC and diving there. Playa Frans is pretty pounded, but I have memories there. I dive on Bonaire because there is still a sense of Dive Freedom. As you know, that is going away. Love diving with the Ostracod and after the full moon. But most importantly it feels like home to me."

Lisa Moyes and Robin Russo – Florida



Lisa Moyes and Robin Russo have been diving together for almost a year. Lisa is newly certified, Robin certified a few years ago but never got to dive until recently. They do most of their diving in South Florida, shore diving at Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and the Blue Heron Bridge. Why did they visit Bonaire?

Lisa told me, "It's been on Robin's bucket list for years... For me, it was hearing about the diving, of course, and the people... We will be back for sure!"

Jan Blanke – Amsterdam



Jan Blanke has been coming to Bonaire since 2000. Jan describes Bonaire as a very quiet island with beautiful reefs. He said the Bonaireans are very friendly and he feels very comfortable here.

Jan said, "It's easy diving and the reefs are just beautiful, there is no other word for it."

Marsha and Paul Stamatakis - Florida



Marsha has dived Bonaire for 20 years and Paul 14. The couple was just named Bonaire ambassadors.

Marsha told us, the people are so friendly, the resort, the restaurants in town, even the taxi drivers are working to make everything nice.

"After a year of not diving our equipment had some problems and the guys were able to fix it in the shop at Habitat. We had a really good experience with sea life this time - it was a very fishy trip with seahorses, frogfish and a nurse shark.

Everything is so relaxing and after over a year of covid, it is so good to know most of the island is vaccinated, it's like coming home," said Marsha.



Jim and Cheri Greer - Georgia

Jim has been diving since 1969. As a dive instructor, he's dived in Florida, Georgia, quarries, springs, lakes, the Bahamas and Indonesia but never Bonaire. Cheri is a pilot and was recently certified in May.

"The best thing is you can just walk in – it's the easiest reef ever to dive," said Jim, "I like that there are only moorings for the boats and anchors aren't allowed. And the reefs are healthy with lots of life." Cheri said, "I'm sure we will be finding a way to come back, I even like it better than flying."

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of July 27, 2021

16 active	0 hospitalized
1670 total	17 deceased
As of July 17, 80 % of those over 18 have had 1st vaccination (15,154 persons of 18,944 eligible)	

For up to date covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> or FB Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

Opposition builds to limiting cruise ships

The new Bonaire Cruise Tourism Association (BCTA) has sent a "fire letter" to the island council regarding the cruise ship restrictions built into the Tourism Recovery Plan. The BCTA was recently established to create a unified voice for that sector in the island economy. The association intends to bring together members of TAB (Taxi), BACCA (Bonaire arts and crafts cruise market), BEA (Bonaire Explorer Association), BPA (Bonaire Port Association), and individual entrepreneurs who serve the cruise ship market. Its version of a tourist recovery plan would restore Bonaire's cruise visitor industry to what it was before the covid pandemic.

Until now, the dominant voice on the island has consisted of many residents and interest groups that want the government to curb cruise tourism in order to attract more select, higher spending visitors to the island.

In its letter to the island council, the BTCA charges that the government's tourism recovery plan amounts to a 'liquidation plan.' The BTCA says the recovery plans are not based on valid research, are not scientifically substantiated, are not in line with the strategic tourism master plan, and are in many ways not workable or realistic. BTCA says the individuals and groups it represents should have been consulted.

In its letter, the BCTA states that it wants, among other things, the cruise industry on Bonaire to be re-opened as the sector knew it before. "Not what is described in the recovery plan or was communicated to the press during the visit of the 'Thielman delegation' to Miami," the organization writes. BTCA is especially concerned about the suspicions regarding Bonaire that were raised in the cruise industry when the Thielman delegation declared the island's restrictive attitude at the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association's summit in Miami. DMR



Photo Julie Morgan

Deadly coral disease sweeping Caribbean linked to wastewater from ships

from the Guardian, July 22, 2021

Researchers find 'significant relationship' between stony coral tissue loss disease and nearby shipping

A virulent and fast-moving coral disease that has swept through the Caribbean could be linked to waste or ballast water from ships, according to research.

The deadly infection, known as stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD), was first identified in Florida in 2014, and has since moved through the region, causing great concern among scientists.

It spreads faster than most coral diseases and has an unusually high mortality rate among the species most susceptible to it, making it potentially the most deadly disease ever to affect corals. More than 30 species of coral are susceptible. It was found in Jamaica in 2018, then in the Mexican Caribbean, Sint Maarten and the Bahamas, and has since been detected in 18 other countries.

Scientists have not yet been able to determine whether the disease is caused by a virus, a bacterium, a chemical or some other infectious agent, but the peer-reviewed study in the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science* supports the theory that ballast water from ships may be involved. Conducted in the Bahamas by scientists at the Perry Institute for Marine Science, it found that SCTLD was more prevalent in reefs that were closer to the Bahamas' main commercial ports, in Nassau and Grand Bahama, suggesting a likely link between the disease and ships.

In 2017, the spread of deadly pathogens by ships when they discharge ballast water prompted the International Maritime Organization to implement the Ballast Water Management Convention, which requires that ships discharge their ballast water – used to maintain the ship's stability – 200 nautical miles from shore in water at least 200 metres deep before entering port, to ensure they do not bring in harmful foreign pathogens.

In the Bahamas, SCTLD has spread rapidly since first being identified in December 2019.

Krista Sherman, senior scientist at the Perry Institute and a co-author of the recently published paper, said: "The disease is spread along about 75km of reef tract, about 46 miles – so for Grand Bahama that is a large structure of reef. We're talking about mostly covering the entire southern coastline of the island." See the complete article: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/22/deadly-coral-disease-sweeping-caribbean-linked-to-wastewater-from-ships>

Delta and American adding more flights



In response to increased current demand and an expected holiday surge, American and Delta are adding more direct flights to Bonaire to their schedules. On November 8 American Airlines will begin a third weekly return flight from Miami, providing Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday service. It will also upgrade its Saturday flight to a 737, providing seats for an additional 44 passengers. American will offer daily flights from Miami during the December 16, 2021 - January 3, 2022 holiday season. Delta, which now operates direct flights from Atlanta on Wednesday and Saturday, has also scheduled daily flights for the holiday period. DMR

Covid-19 round-up

The delta variant has reached Bonaire and we are now at risk level 2. Bonaire's last major peak of infections occurred in March and April and they have been trending steadily downwards since. But with many people now returning from vacation and tourists arriving, the number of new infections is increasing again, especially in the last two weeks.

Netherlands is on the list of very high-risk countries again. Arriving passengers need a negative PCR test to enter Bonaire and must do a PCR test five days after arrival.

The bubble between the ABC islands is not affected. Vaccinated persons can fly without restriction between the islands.

On Bonaire no singing or dancing is allowed, whether inside or out, and discotheques and nightclubs are closed. Events with more than 50 people are not allowed and only 50% of the venue must be used. Places such as restaurants and gyms have to register their visitors again. The now familiar precautions should continue: masks, social distancing, and hygiene measures.

Covid, continued on page 4

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 5

Jammin' at Divers Diner



Every Tuesday night, (unless Covid -19 levels prevent it) a variety of musicians head to Divers Diner to jam. No one knows who will show up to play or what instruments will be a part of the jam.

"People come and go – it's different every week," said Jason Croop who lives on a boat with wife Laura. The Croop's are on their third visit as cruise visitors because they love Bonaire.

Cruisers' started getting together to jam sometime in 2019. As the group grew, they asked Louis at Diver's Diner if they could play there on Tuesday evenings when they were closed. After a while Louis decided to open on Tuesday to offer the diner's drinks and food services for not only the musicians but anyone who wanted to come and enjoy the music.

Sometimes there are as many as 30 different musicians.

The mix of instruments includes acoustic guitar, accordion, ukulele, banjo, quar-

to, slide guitar, cajon, harmonica. There are also singers.

The music is as varied as the instruments and players. It ranges from folk, classic, modern rock to local music. The musicians are a mixed bag of English, American, French, Dutch, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and Bonaireans. Everyone brings something different to the jam, which makes for a great time for everyone. And it's free.

"Mostly half of the musicians are cruisers and some live on the island or are long-term visitors...we all add something. At times we are the only thing going on in town," said Jason.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 Level 2 restrictions (no singing or dancing inside and outside) the jam is put on hold. But once the island returns to Level 1, the musicians will return in force to Diver's Diner playing from 6-9pm. Everyone is welcome to join the fun. Story & photo Julie Morgan

TCB celebrates 30 years



L-R. The 2021 TCB team: Elesier Angel, Angelo Domacasse, Helen Mercera-Thode, Miles Mercera, Cristely Cranston, Joanny Trinidad, Annette Emerenciana, Rolando Marin and Marjolein Oleana. (not pictured Evelain Marchena).

In celebration of their 30th anniversary, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) held a "by invitation only" party for about 100 guests at Posada Para Mia on July 16th. TCB secretary Helen Mercera welcomed all and introduced the events of the evening. The large crowd enjoyed dancing to live music from JC and Friends as servers passed trays of some amazing appetizers and drinks. A short film featuring video clips from the ear-

ly days of Bonaire took everyone back to what tourism looked like years ago. Evelain Marchena and Joanny Trinidad were recognized for celebrating 30 year work anniversaries with TCB.

New director Miles Mercera spoke and led a toast to the future of Bonaire tourism for the next 30 years.

Story & photo Julie Morgan



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POLICE REPORT

Property crime

July 14. Thieves forced the back door to gain access to a house on Kaya Finlandia. Among other things, an Apple laptop was stolen.

Between July 14 and 15, a red Yamaha scooter with registration number MF-70 was stolen. The scooter was parked, locked, in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Dialma.

Between July 14 and 15, 12 regulators, one Aqualon diving watch, a number of fake diving watches, two TUSA diving masks and a few computers were stolen from a company on Hanchi Amboina.

July 16. A water pump was stolen from a kunuku in the vicinity of Subi Blanku.

July 16. Thieves stole a mobile phone and a shoulder bag containing, among other things, a few bank cards from a tourist accommodation on E.E.G Bulevar.

July 21. Thieves forced the door of a company on Kaya Industria and took, among other things, a mobile phone and cash.

July 21. Thieves entered a house on the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas De-brot. They took a pink Nintendo Switch without a charger, an Xbox video game with two controllers, a silver/black iPad and a pink Razor headset.

Arrested/held in custody.

July 13. A scooter driver, 16, was arrested after he ignored the police stop signal. He tried to drive away at high speed but the police were able to arrest him moments later. The scooter has been impounded.

July 13. A man, 21, was arrested after drugs were found in his car during a traffic control. The officers smelled a strong marijuana smell, so an opium check was done. A white powder, presumably cocaine and a quantity of marijuana were found. The car, telephone, narcotics and cash have been seized.

July 14. Three men were arrested who were fighting at a snack on Kaya Dr. Grigorio Hernandez. One man, 19, was arrested for threats, one, 20, for threats and violation of the BES Weapons Act and one aged 20 for assault.

July 14. A man was arrested in connection with a sexual assault case. During the arrest, the investigative team also searched the suspect's house.

July 15. A young man, 16, was arrested for theft of a black iPhone SE at a dive site on Kaya Catalina Diaz Leonora.

July 15. Two women aged 31 and 25 and a man aged 30 were arrested for assault.

Traffic accidents/violations

July 16 - 18. Three men were ticketed for driving under the influence. A man, 58 was banned from driving for 12 hours. Another man, 54, was given a 10-hour driving ban. The third man, 44, was banned from driving for eight hours.

July 17. Two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Essequibo and Kaminda Lac. One of the vehicles came to rest against the wall of a house damaging a water pipe. Neither driver had a driver's license. The driver who was found to be under the influence of alcohol was arrested, given a police report and a nine hour driving ban. The driver of the other car was driving with a visa that expired in June 2021, but had a residence permit at home. He was taken to the station and after the documents were brought and checked, he was allowed to go home with a police report for driving without a valid driver's license.

July 19. A collision with a buggy took place on Kaminda Jato Bako. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

July 23. At around 1:25 am the police station received a report about a car that had entered the salt pans water near Pink Beach. The driver and passenger, walked to a hotel in Belnem to call the police. According to the driver, he wanted to evade two donkeys and lost control of the wheel, causing the car to roll over and end up in the water of the salt pans. Both unharmed, apart from a few scrapes, but were checked on the spot by paramedics. Both had their seat belts on during the collision.

Traffic control

July 20-23. During routine checks police issued official reports for driving

Ask Kate



Bonaire real estate advice

I'm not sure whether to rent my oceanfront condo while trying to sell it. If it stays on the market a long time, I lose the rental income, but if I rent it, I lose the chance for people to see it when it's rented. What do you think? Should I do vacation rentals or keep it empty? Larry

Hi Larry,

The answer lies in the listing price and when you want to sell. The market on Bonaire is moving quickly. If you price the condo correctly, it is likely to sell quickly, especially if it is in the under \$500,000 range, where there are many buyers looking.

It also depends on whether you plan to list it in high season (winter) or the shoulder season in the fall when it is not likely to be rented as often. In high season, it may be difficult to find times when the unit is vacant for showing, and yet that is when many buyers are on the island.

Two options will help. First, make sure you have a 3d tour that prospective buyers can view online. Jean and I have sold a number of properties with 3d and virtual tours to off-island buyers. Second, if you decide you need to rent it during high season, advise your rental

guests that the property is on the market and ask if you may have one time each week to show the property. We have seen this work very effectively, our experience is that renters don't mind one visit as long as they don't have to clean anything or put their belongings away.

The easiest thing for your agent is to have the condo empty, clean, staged and ready to show at any time. A good compromise might be to leave it empty during the shoulder season, and then if it does not sell, take vacation rentals for high season (and lower the listing price!)

All the best,
Kate Butler and Jean Searce
Re/Max Bonaire

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at kate@bonairehomes.com.

without: a valid driver's license, valid insurance documents, a helmet, and a license plate. A moped was seized until the driver could show valid insurance papers and a driver's license.

During a routine inspection of a car, an additional inspection was carried out under the Opium Act BES after a strong odor came from the car. A small amount of marijuana-like herb was found and seized. The driver received a police report for violating the Opium Act BES.

Tickets were also given for wrong parking, driving without seatbelts and driving in a prohibited direction.

In particular, driving without the valid documents was often ticketed. During one of the checks, a car was seized until the correct documents could be shown. The amount of a fine for the above violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.

Fire

July 14. In the afternoon a fire was re-

ported near a kunuku near Playa Grandi. The fire brigade and patrol found a fire in an open area. The occupant of the kunuku was stable but had been in the smoke for a long time. He was checked on the spot by paramedics. The fire brigade extinguished the fire.

July 19. The police station received a report about a fire at a house in the mondi near Tra'i Montaña. Plastic and presumably other chemicals were on fire. The resident was promised a police report for environmental pollution.

Search for missing fisherman

July 13. The KPCN has continued the search for the missing fisherman with the help of STINAPA. The man Ulrich Pinedo has been missing since Monday, July 5. Several STINAPA diving teams have searched the indicated locations.

Did you see anything suspicious? Call 911 or 717 8000 or the anonymous tip line 717 7251.

Covid, continued from page 2

Bonaire has the best vaccination rate in the Caribbean, with 80% of those 18 and older having received one shot and 68.4% are fully vaccinated. Young people between the ages of 12 and 17 can now be vaccinated as well. The government is encouraging everyone from 12 and up to get vaccinated, those who have had the first shot should get the second. The Delta variant is more readily transmitted and more debilitating than the early version, but the vaccine reduces both the likelihood of infection and the intensity of the illness.

How Bonaire became the "vaccination champion" of the Caribbean was explained by Nina den Heyer, Commissioner of Social Affairs, Education, Culture, Public Health and Youth. At the beginning of 2021 she investigated the willingness of people on the island to be vaccinated. She found a large difference in vaccination readiness among different groups on the island. The Papiamentu-speaking inhabitants - by far the largest group - she found a large majority that rejected vaccination outright or were strongly hesitant about it.

Den Heyer's research helped shape the communication strategy of the government's pro-vaccination campaign. Gov-

ernment officials, including den Heyer herself, made their own vaccinations publicized events, including photographs in the media. She credits that strategy with reassuring people that the vaccine was safe and effective.

Arriving passengers in the Netherlands are handed covid self-tests by the Health Department. They are encouraged to test themselves before they resume work, school, and other activities. If their self-test proves positive, they are encouraged to report directly to the Health Department for a regular corona test, even if they show no symptoms.

Two thirds of all corona infected people on Curaçao are under 24 years old, while

85% are younger 40. That is to be expected, according to epidemiologist Izzy Gerstenbluth, since younger people go out more. When interviewed, most did not want to say where they had been and how they become infected.

Both returning residents and tourists are importing covid to Aruba including the Delta variant. The majority of the active cases on the island are people who recently arrived from elsewhere. So now everyone must be tested upon entry to Aruba, including residents. Of the people who became infected in recent weeks, fifteen percent turned out to be fully vaccinated. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu, Bonaire.nu)*

Slaughterhouse to be renovated

Bonaire will soon have a slaughterhouse that meets all food safety and public health requirements. Better provisions will also be made for humane treatment of the animals brought there. A renovation will begin in the third quarter and be finished in 2022.

The recently established veterinary department will be involved in the operations of the slaughterhouse. In the 2018 administrative agreement, the public entity Bonaire and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality agreed to professionalize goat farming and agriculture by renovating the slaughterhouse and creating a veterinary department.. *DMR*

Rules changed for deferred business taxes

The government has issued an 1,100-word press release on business tax payments. *The Reporter's* attempt to interpret the release follows. We hope we got it right.

On October 1, 2021, all entrepreneurs must resume filing and paying their business taxes as they did previously, before the government began offering tax deferrals to assist businesses during the corona epidemic.

In the meantime, by October 1, 2021 entrepreneurs must pay all the deferred business taxes they owe the government.

However, entrepreneurs may apply to defer their deferred taxes for an additional year, until October 1, 2022. They must apply for the extended deferral by September 30.

Entrepreneurs who extend their present tax deferrals will begin paying those taxes on October 1, 2022. They will be allowed to make monthly fixed payments for 60 months, until October 1, 2027.

The Government has further reduced the interest on deferred tax payments.

For further information, contact www.belastingdienst-cn.nl/. *DMR*

COHO agreement nears

Except for details concerning one "technical matter" that has been settled among the parties in principle, discussions between the Netherlands, Sint Maarten, Curaçao and Aruba have brought the four parties close to an agreement on how the Caribbean Organization for Reform and Development (COHO) will be implemented. COHO provides a structure for the staged resumption of liquidity support payments from Netherlands as each island succeeds in meeting specific financial reform goals. *DMR*

"Monkey burglar" hitting resorts

A burglar has been climbing to second and third story balconies at night and stealing from condos while the occupants are asleep. He's been dubbed the "monkey burglar." Last week he stole a dive camera, cash, backpack, computer and chargers. Visitors should be warned to keep their sliding doors locked. *DMR*

Man injured jumping from Slagbaai cliff

Last Saturday an 18-year-old man hit his head against the rock wall at Boca Slagbaai when he tried to jump from the rocks into the sea. An ambulance was unable to reach the scene, so a helicopter was dispatched by the Coast Guard Rescue & Coordination Center (RCC) of the Coast Guard. It flew the man to Flamingo Airport where an ambulance was waiting to take him to the Mariadal hospital. At press time his condition had not been announced. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*.

Why do they come? continued from page 2

Paul J. and Paul D Poduska - Ft. Collins, CO.



Paul J., certified in 1974, has been a regular guest at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn for the last 35 years.



Paul said, "My nurse told me about Bonaire; she said since I liked diving so much I should come down here and I haven't been anywhere else since then. Nothing compares to Bonaire... so easy – very easy."

The Poduskas are three generations of divers. Son Paul Dominic came to the island at the age of 9, was later certified at Carib Inn and brought his own kids to be certified.

"There is nothing like Bonaire anywhere. There aren't a lot of big things but the coral is amazing," said Paul Dominic, "Bonaire has a lot of different types of diving, boat, shore, east coast or tech. It's all so gentle and beautiful and other places you go are never as colorful."

Kevin and Tracy Fuson - Utah



Kevin and Tracy Fuson said one of the best things is we can be on our own schedule. Everywhere else you go to dive, you have to be on their schedule. Here we can dive when we want to or not.

The couple said, "the shore diving is the best. We've been to Cozumel, Costa Rica, Belize, Roatan and really enjoyed them. But, here we are considering coming down for a long term rental when we retire. We even saw a realtor the other day."

Tracy said she is interested in coming down to volunteer with some of the conservation organizations.

"When we like someplace we commit. The diving, the memorable reefs, we love what we are seeing in the shallows. There is so much abundance. It's easy – Bonaire. This is our second time but it won't be the last," said Tracy.

Mel McCombie and Harris Friedberg - Connecticut



Mel McCombie and Harris Friedberg first came to Bonaire in January of 1993 with their 10-year old son Andrew.

"We kept coming and built our little house. Bonaire is addictive: for its friendliness, its lifestyle, and its emphasis on nature, Mel said. "There is higher voltage diving and lush speciation elsewhere, but there is no place like Bonaire for ease and enjoyment."

Ginny Knight - Montana



Ginny Knight fell in love at first dive on Bonaire 20 years ago.

Ginny said, "It was Christmas Eve and the tarpon were swimming alongside me in the bioluminescent water, it won my heart."

I always want to shore dive. No boat, just me and a buddy and the ocean at my own pace, diving my way. I've gotten to know most of the dive sites and I have some of my own special spots. You become familiar with these spots and the fish that inhabit them and it's wonderful and beautiful and exciting every time. I also love the reef. It is so healthy compared to other places I occasionally stray to. Then there's the sweetness of the people who choose to live there. And the great mix of cultures that call this tiny island home. It is just an amazing island above and below the water!"

Ed Diehl - Michigan



Ed Diehl is a divemaster from Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn who returned to Bonaire after almost 20 years. He worked for Bruce from 1991 – 98, left to work in Saba and Hawaii and then back home to Michigan.

Ed said, "I returned because I missed Bonaire, the reefs, the soft corals, the coral variety and the healthy reefs. The magical whimsical feeling; something about it got under my skin. The weather, the people, the diving, the easy lifestyle and Bruce was a hell of a boss. While I was working in Michigan I'd be looking at #Bonaire with No Name Beach, Washington Park and I could transport myself back." Ed returned to Bonaire in 2018. *Julie Morgan*



With the return of more visiting divers it was time for a new flag to be raised on the permanent underwater dive flag mooring in the shallows at Captain Don's Habitat. The original flag was first raised in the early 1980's. The idea was birthed from Captain Don himself along with George Buckley and Frank Fennell from the early days of diving. There was a plaque that read: "Honoring the Underwater Pioneers and Explorers who have gone before us." Replacing the old flag are L-R: Mel McCombie, Harris Friedberg and Dee Scarr. Story & photo Julie Morgan

Seven headed to 50th Sunfish World Championship



50TH WORLDS SUNFISH TEAM BONAIRE

Digicel



With less than 100 days to go, the countdown to the 50th Sunfish World Championship in Sarasota, Florida, October 23 – 29, has begun. At current count 97 registrations from 13 countries are set to compete and Bonaire Sailing Club is one of them.

Seven Bonaire sailors from BSSA (Bonaire Sunfish Sailing Association) were selected to attend Worlds after competing in eight races. This would normally have been 12 but due to Covid-19 the races weren't possible.

Bonaire's representatives will be:

Sipke Stapert, (Spike, was second in the Masters category in the 2019 Worlds

that was held in Bonaire. This will be his 13th time to sail in Worlds.

Ton Nuijten (Opa, meaning granddad) was the first in the Grand Masters category in the last Worlds.

Alex Tromp is sailing for the sixth time at World's and could possibly end up in the Top 5 in the Youth category.

George Soliano, called Kabes, will compete in his sixth World. He will be joining the Masters category.

Alfred Martis, otherwise known as Yellowman, will sail in his 10th Worlds and will compete in the Grand Masters category for the first time.

Ralf Theyse and Aline Brummel are sailing in Worlds for the first time.

Gilbert Martis rated second place among BSSA's sailors but decided not to attend the championship.

Bonaire's sailors who are attending were introduced and put on quite a show of mini races for their sponsors in front of Karel's Beach Bar on July 16. The sailors showed off their skills sailing around buoys in a tight course close to Karel's. The sponsors had a nice view of the sailors but the wind was blocked by the structure creating difficulties resulting in several flipped boats. Scores for the mini races named Sipke in first

place, Ton scored second, Yellowman in third, Kabes in fourth, Alex in fifth, Ralf in sixth and Aline in seventh place.

Anyone who missed the mini-races at Karel's could have a another chance to see the sailor's skills prior to the World Championship in October. Some challenging races are planned in front of Delfins, a sail from Sebastian's Restaurant to Sebastian's Beach in Sorobon and back and even a sailing trip around Bonaire.

For more information visit BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook page. *By Julie Morgan*

Women's Dive Day on Bonaire



Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort celebrated Women's Dive Day on July 17th with a group of 10 women on their new boat 'Silver Surfer'. The boat was crewed by two women divemasters but there was a guy to drive the boat. The ladies headed to Klein Bonaire for a dive at Ebo's Special and afterward enjoyed a nice drink and snacks. Photo Toucan Diving.



Dive Friends Bonaire hosted the PADI Women's Dive Day event July 17 at their Hamlet Oasis location. The day started with a Yoga class from DFB's very own Yoga instructor (and divemaster) Gwen. After an hour of controlled breathing and relaxing the ladies headed to the water for a dive at the famous Cliff site. After the dive, a delicious and healthy smoothie from Smooth Operators was waiting for them in the dive shop. A huge thank you to all the ladies who joined us for PADI Women's Dive Day @ Dive Friends Bonaire. Photo Dive Friends.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Why Is This Squid Lumpy?

As we swam from shore to the reef slope that afternoon, we saw a single squid, hovering near a mooring block. We pointed it out to each other, and continued onward.

Later, as we swam from the reef back to shore, we saw the squid again, in the same area, with one difference: it was lumpy! Slo-o-owly we approached the squid, until we could tell that the cause of the lumpiness was a fish being embraced by the squid! Okay, "embraced" isn't exactly the right term, since affection is not what was involved. "Gripped" would be better. It's tempting to use the term "death grip", but that's not how squid dispatch their prey.

Like their close relatives the octopuses, each squid is equipped with the ability to "ink," and has a parrot-like beak and eight arms. However, squid also have two additional very specialized digits called tentacles. The ends of most squids' tentacles flare to a sort of leaf shape, and contain four rows of suckers. One difference between arms and tentacles is that the squid can shoot out its tentacles past its arms; its arms are can't change length. Oh yes, and let's not forget that many squid suckers have bone like "teeth" which essentially "bite" into prey.

This Caribbean reef squid is the squid we see most on Bonaire. Its scientific name is *Sepioteuthis sepioidea*, which means "cuttlefish-like squid". What's wonderful about our squid is that most of the time they ignore divers, or maybe show a little interest but no fear, so we can watch them to our heart's content. One afternoon my buddies and I watched a pair for about an hour: they did what was apparently a ritual dance, then they entwined their arms (he was placing a sperm packet under her mantle). Afterwards she explored the bottom for a few moments while he hovered above (I always imagined him impatiently tapping his foot – "Just deposit the eggs already!"). Eventually she pointed her arms and tentacles together and reached under a ledge, held that position for a bit, then rejoined her partner -- and the routine would begin again. She deposited four more clusters in different places, and then the two of them swam away. After they left, we carefully checked one of her spots – and there were the eggs, a cluster of translucent white, little-finger-sized, three-section egg cases, with one egg in each section. It's a good thing that reef squid moms are careful about where they deposit their eggs, because that's 100% of the parental care they pro-



The reef squid eyes me as it holds the newly-caught fish.

vide.

The babies, looking like tiny adults, would have hatched together and headed for the surface to grow, grow, grow by hunting prey of all sorts. Most squid use one or more of these hunting methods: they can chase down their prey, they can hide and ambush their prey as it passes, or they can stalk their prey. I'm pretty sure that only moments before this photo was taken, the brown chromis was fluttering around with dozens of other brown chromis. Then a slightly different critter – the squid -- slid into view, its two tentacles shot out, and the chromis was captured. The squid would have used its beak to kill the fish, and then to tear away pieces that were small enough for it to swallow.

Reading about squids is fascinating because there are so many interesting stories. Keep your eye on this space for some of them in the next issue of The Bonaire Reporter, including how one diver lost his computer and dive light to Humboldt squid.

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses." The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.

Curaçao court tells police officers to stay away from trago girls

Earlier this month the Joint Court of Justice on Curaçao ruled on the appeals of four people who had been convicted of exploitation. Two were owners of La Tasca nightclub, the third a female accomplice, and the fourth a policeman who frequented the club. Their appeals did not go well, especially since the four appellants had been convicted of similar crimes in 2019.

The three justices decided the trago girls (defined as "a kind of companion woman") were young impoverished illegal immigrants from Venezuela who had been smuggled into the country and sexually exploited for low wages and under poor working conditions. The two owners of La Tasca in Hotel Carlos had made the trago girls available for sexual activities with clients and collected part of the proceeds. The owners of nightclub La Tasca are also guilty of human smuggling and the employment of illegal immigrants. The Court sentenced them both to four years' imprisonment. The female accomplice, found guilty of the same charge, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, of which six months were suspended.

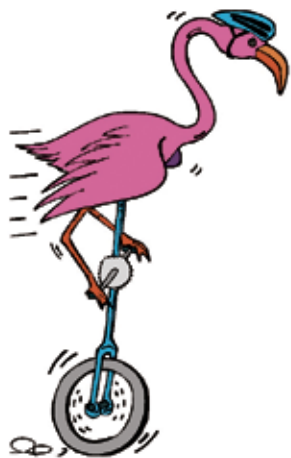
The police officer was judged complicit in facilitating and assisting exploitation and human trafficking. He often came to the La Tasca nightclub dressed in his police uniform and had extensive contacts with the owners and one of the trago girls. The Justices felt he should have enforced the law rather than participating in the exploitation. They sentenced him to 12 months in prison and barred him from employment as a police officer for four years.

When the police officer defended himself by stating other police officers also visited La Tasca regularly, the Court apparently felt he had made a salient point. The judges responded by banning all police officers from places where trago ladies work, if the women there were suspected of being on the island illegally. The justices felt police presence exposed those ladies to increased risk of exploitation. The Public Prosecution Service concurred. DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)

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JANUARY 23RD - APRIL 24TH - JULY 24TH - OCTOBER 23RD

What's Happening

Washington Slagbaai: Wed-Sun. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)
STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-2. +599 717 8444.
+599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10-1; 2-3:30. Sat. 10-2:30. phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market store): Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

Sunday, August 1	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6pm Piedra Pretu. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.
Monday, August 2	Seniors Seminar. 9-11am. Bonaire Botanical Garden. Learn about healthy nutrition, exercises, mental fitness, manufacturing local products and more. See this page. +599 786-6501

Open meeting Alcoholics Anonymous
Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments) All welcome, regardless of primary addition or no addition at all.

Statian archaeology dig suspended

Human remains turned up this spring in precautionary test trenches dug by the St. Eustatius Center for Archaeological Research (SECAR) at the Golden Rock Plantation, an area where airport expansion is planned. The site proved to be a large 18th century burial ground for enslaved Africans. The archaeologists have found 48 skeletons so far and expect many more. It may turn out to be one of the largest discoveries of its kind in the Caribbean.

St. Eustatius public entity has decided to suspend the airport dig and appoint a commission of independent Caribbean regional experts in the areas of history, archaeology and anthropology. This group of experts will consult with community and advise the government on how to proceed. The aims are to ensure that valuable historical evidence is preserved and investigated for its contribution to Statian Heritage. They also wish to assure the human remains are excavated and stored for safe keeping in a respectful manner, then reburied in a timely manner following osteological analyses.

The commissioners will also help the government re-evaluate the current heritage legislation and community outreach policies in order to be better prepared to have handle future discoveries of burial grounds and other archaeological findings.

DMR (Besreporter)

Bonaire's sky park

Saturn, Jupiter and binoculars

Thanks to Trace Dominguez, <https://www.stargazersonline.org>

Hola observadores de estrellas -- Trace here, how many times have you been looking at the sky and thought that every point of light you can see is moving in a different direction at a different velocity? It's amazing, really.

For example: Saturn will be in a conjunction with the Moon at the end of this week, so let's watch the planet's progress! Hit the skies around midnight every night this week and look South. On the right you'll see the waxing gibbous moon, and on the left is Saturn (and Jupiter even farther left!). Check again each night and you'll see the moon approaching the Planets!

Interested in Bonaire's geology?



Everyone who loves Bonaire has questions about the island's geology.

How was the island formed and when? What is the actual composition of the island's topographical structures?

All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by Andre Nahr. The class will be held August 24, 26 and 28 in Captain Don's Habitat Buckley Room.

Session one and two are scheduled for Tuesday, August 24 and Thursday, August 26 from 7pm -9pm. Session three brings everything together in a fun field trip on Saturday, August 28 from 9am to 1 pm.

The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand examples of Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested but there is no heavy hiking.

The class is taught in English and to gain the most from this fascinating adventure, a maximum of 13 individuals can sign up. Carpooling is a good idea to limit the number of vehicles. Snacks and drinks will be provided for all three class sessions.

Cost for the class is \$95, payable in cash at the class or by bank transfer: Banco di Caribe, Account 32178901; c/o Andre Nahr; Kaya Wassenaar 8.

For more information call 786-2227 or sign up by email – geology.andrenahr@gmail.com.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about Bonaire's fascinating geology.

Seniors Seminar

60 or older?

The Bonaire Botanical Garden is offering seminars free of charge to learn about:

- good nutrition,
- physical exercises,
- mental fitness,
- skills to manufacture Bonairean products • and more.

Every Monday 9 to 11 am. starting in August.

The seminars are also about getting people together to exchange ideas and points of view, therefore there is no defined end date.

To participate please call the management: +599 777 0508 or +599 770 8853.



Saturn is the furthest planet we can see with our naked eye. It takes 30 years to orbit the sun once, and on August 1 will be at Opposition, when it's closest to Earth and brightest for from our perspective.

Hopefully you can watch Saturn and Jupiter. But since we're looking, why not turn up your sky experience a bit with binoculars!

Other than planets, one of my fav objects to spot with bi-nocs is M45: the Pleiades. Head outside around 4 am and face east to spy the Seven Sisters.

With the naked eye you can see MAYBE five, but with binoculars (especially on a tripod) they look a bit like a dipper, but don't mix them up with the little dipper asterism in Ursa Minor.

Try finding Aldeberan in Taurus directly below M45 -- it's in the Hyades cluster another star cluster just below the Pleiades!

Now you can too, while you keep lookin 'up!

Do you love cats and have a general knowledge of their behavior and care?

Not afraid of hard work?

Animal Shelter Bonaire has a new paid position open for you.



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- Multilingual appreciated
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- Resident of Bonaire with valid Bonaire sedula

Responsibilities include:

- Assist in weekly health checks of all cats; managing medications, vaccinations, treatments, etc.
- Maintain intake procedures. Supervise volunteers
- Cleaning and care of kennels and cat compound with other staff and volunteers
- Computer entries and notations for shelter management system
- Create profiles and photos of cats
- Assisting cat supervisor in all aspects

If you are interested, please email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com with your C.V. for an interview appointment. **DO NOT RESPOND VIA FACEBOOK OR MESSENGER.**

Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

This article appropriately follows my last two articles about recycling old computers. Why?

Because as a result of the last article, I did receive some computers for recycling and wanted to share the experience.

When I receive any computers, the first thing I do is see if they work. If yes, then I wipe the hard drive of all of the existing data. If the hard drive does not operate, then I get to have a fun time with a big hammer to make sure it can never be recovered.

The next thing I do is to re-install the latest operating system available for that computer. Unfortunately, this is the story of woe and I will talk about the four laptops that went through this process.

Two of them were Apple MacBooks which still worked great, but the most recent version of the operating system was still too “old” for anything to work - like browsers, etc. Google warned “Your computer is too old.”

The other two were HP laptops running Windows 7

Recycle, Reuse, Save the Landfill!



and 8, both of which are now deemed ‘extinct’ by Microsoft, thus forcing you to buy new computers and new operating systems.

Sadly, they are perfectly good computers and what I did to make them usable again is install a free operating system called Linux.

While it’s not as polished as Windows (sarcasm intended), it is fully functional, and the Mac operating system is based upon the same technology.

You can surf the web, watch videos, do word processing, spreadsheets, Skype, Zoom, etc all with Open

Source programs that are included for free and you are able to read and write Windows and Mac format files. (Open Source means that they are usually created by a group of users around the world and are free to use).

While the HP computers happily accepted Linux and ran like the wind, the Apple computers begrudgingly allowed me to install Linux, complaining all the way, and when they finally did reboot, Linux ran very, very slowly. I think Apple does something to make it that way so they aren’t usable for much other than doorstops.

While it sounds easy and fun, it was actually four days of tinkering on the edge of my desk to get them ready to deliver to Pakus (Animal Shelter flea market). Hopefully someone who needs a computer inexpensively was able to get them.

So, on that note if you have anything you’d like to recycle/donate, please contact me at info@bonairetechsupport.com and I’ll see what I can do to help.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Menopause, an opportunity for reassessing, changing and growing

Menopause, from the Greek, means cessation of menstruation but it is much more than that. It is a stage that most women between approximately 45 and 55 years of age will go through. It involves changes in the biological, cognitive, social, emotional, intimate and existential aspects that affect life on daily basis. Although it is a common path, each woman will transit this passage in her unique way. Like adolescence, it is a stage marked by a roller coaster of hormonal changes, closing some doors and opening others.

It is a stage in life where the recognition of accumulated experience positions menopausal and post-menopausal women in a place of wisdom, overcoming fears, eliminating labels and freeing herself from limiting social mandates, generating her own experience of security and sovereignty.

Is it also a moment in life when a woman is likely to decide to introduce healthier habits in her lifestyle.

In the biological aspect, it is the end of menstrual periods, which some will experience as liberating. It is also the end of the reproductive period, a reason for some to mourn. The uncomfortable hot flashes that some experience can occur at any time of day and in any situation, and at night they generate insomnia problems. Lack of proper sleep can affect mood and work performance. We will all experience the decrease in estrogen and progesterone with different consequences for our health. Linked to hormonal fluctuations and insomnia problems, mood swings affect family and work relationships. Raising awareness of this fact will allow us to manage it and find alternatives to handle it. It is time to talk with your doctor about the available options but don’t disregard complimentary approaches.

In sexual intimacy, sometimes functional and anatomical changes invite a change in the practice. There are many resources to counteract some of the negative effects and to enhance sexual performance. Now begins the stage of enjoying sexuality without the fear of an unwanted pregnancy

In the existential area, this time in life brings us closer to the acceptance of our finitude, which can open a range of new possibilities while establishing new criteria to give a new order to our life. Many times this is the moment to take up personal projects that have been postponed for a lifetime.

From an evolutionary point of view, the end of the reproductive period would also be marking the end of

the individual role in the survival of the species. Some postulated that human post-reproductive survival period is the consequence of an artificial lengthening of life expectancy, but that is not correct. In the Paleolithic period, life expectancy at birth was 22 - 33 years. The infant mortality rate was between 40 and 60%. Individuals who reached 15 years of age had a life expectancy between 61 -72 years of life. In other words, post reproductive survival period in humans is not new. So, what could be its evolutionary function? Perhaps the answer is in the killer whales, marine mammals that reproduce until they are in their 40s but live until 80 to 100. The post-menopausal females are the ones who lead the groups and it has been observed that in times of scarcity their leadership is even more active, since their experience allows them to access those places that are richer in food.

This can shed a new light on menopause and the opportunities that it can bring for experienced leaders. It is in our hands to put the accent on the available options and the opening doors to make this journey a process of growth, well-being and fulfillment.

Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Open for empathy

It’s vacation time and since traveling is not that easy nowadays, people tend to watch TV a lot and so do I. We get treated to mostly reruns and that is okay, but every now and then we are offered little gems.

While zapping I discovered a few very interesting documentaries. There is one about a young man with severe disabilities. His name is Jamie. He explores if accessibility is really such a big problem and what can be done to change this. Jamie has refreshing new ideas and insight about the world around him and offers very practical advice and suggestions. In a recent episode he proposed to offer his help to people with absolutely no limitations. And the reactions of the respondents were

priceless.

When you live with your limitations, you will find that there are a lot of people who will want to help you without asking whether you need that help or not. For the most part that is very awkward. One should respect the person with the limitations and ask if there is anything you can do for them. Because mostly the person in a wheelchair knows what he or she wants and needs.

So Jamie turned this offer of help around. He approached people who clearly had no limitations and offered them his help. Often both Jamie and the people he approached discussed how to find a solution to a specific problem and how to act upon it.

A new documentary shows families of well-known soap stars or actors/writers who have a child or a sibling with limitations. They welcome the cameras into their homes and share what they go through and how they live their lives together. The latest episode was about this soap star who has a brother with severe limitations (Down syndrome). This young man does not live at

home, but in a facility for persons with mental disability. He joins his family on weekends. He does not talk and is very limited, but his family knows him and loves him deeply and their world turns around him. The mother is very disabled because of a muscular-dysfunctionality.

Now this young man had to stay in that facility because of Covid and could not go home for a long while. And when he finally was allowed to, the whole family was very happy. They had been very afraid that he would have become estranged from them. At first he kept his distance, but later one could see he was clearly very happy that everything was as normal again. For a sibling with limitations having a close-knit family is very important. They need to be loved, feel loved and be appreciated for who they are. That is what is important.

“Down the road” is an amazing documentary about six young people with Down syndrome who go on vacations together. The show is very touching and a “need-to-see”.

Happy summer vacation everyone.

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Shelter News

Animal Shelter boarding for your dog or cat



Summer holidays are here and the Christmas/New Year holidays are not far off, which means possible travel plans. Animal Shelter Bonaire has a very limited number of spaces available for boarding dogs and cats and the summer and winter holidays are very busy. If you will need boarding facilities, please contact the Shelter as soon as possible to make your reservation.

Boarding fees for dogs: One dog \$9.50 per day; Two dogs in one kennel \$14.00 per day; Three dogs in one kennel \$16.00 per day. Boarding fees for cats: One cat \$5.50 per day; Two cats in one kennel \$10.00 per day; Three cats in

one kennel \$12.00 per day.

Every boarding animal, both dogs and cats, must be fully vaccinated before entering the Animal Shelter boarding kennels. Proof of vaccinations is mandatory in order to protect your pet, as well as the other animals living in our facility. We require dogs and cats to be flea/tick treated with a product such as Frontline/Advantage/Simparica, etc. prior to arrival, otherwise, they will be treated upon arrival and the cost will be added to the boarding fees. If your pet requires a special diet or medication please bring enough of each to last for the duration of the boarding time. You can email the Shelter for reservations at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or call/WhatsApp the Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989. *Jane Disko*



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

The little garden



My neighbor's little garden

So cool! Somebody sent me a picture of her little garden. She read my article about putting vegetables and fruits together in small garden spaces and wanted to show me the results.

Take a look at the picture. In only a few square meters there are papaya trees, the local Bontji Kunuku, sweet potato, kalaloe (local vegetable), watermelon, yucca, soursop tree and a pomegranate tree full of fruits. There is always something there ready to consume.

Yes, a lot of people are doing a 'little' gardening. One of my neighbors started during the last rainy season with many plants in pots and soil. Now her place is full of vegetables and flowering plants. We have a lot to share: plants, stories and information about plants, vegetables to taste, seeds and cuttings, getting topsoil together and when there is a special deal at one of the groceries or hardware stores. When you share gardening with friends there is always something to say,

to do together and / or to experience.

Worldwide the call for more green is sounding louder, together with the trend to start little gardens so that food does not come from afar. The point is that all the carriers involved in bringing food to our island are responsible for climate change and damaging the planet. It's also not sustainable agriculture. In fact plants lose a lot of their health value during the time it takes to travel to Bonaire.

So even in a small space for gardening, you can make every square centimeter count. Being plant economy wise, one can get a lot of fresh vegetables, herbs and fruits from a little garden. What do I mean by economy wise? First, plant a lot during the rainy season. Begin with preparing the soil before the rainy season starts and plant seeds and cuttings in small containers. Save seeds from plants you already have so when the rains begin, you are ready to put your young plants in the soil or in bigger containers. Consider vegetables that produce in the short rainy season time: sweet peppers, paksoi (bok choy), beans, peppers, herbs, kalaloe greens, okra, spinach, kouseband (yard long beans) and sweet potato. All these vegetables grow fast in just a few months or even weeks and one can enjoy his own veggies and even start a second round of planting.

But there are also vegetables which do not need a lot of rain and in fact some do better in a dry season. Yucca is one, and also plantain that grows year round. Papaya gets rotten with too much rain. Every season there are some vegetables and fruits that one can add to his little garden.

After the first season is gone, clean the garden, add manure, compost, some

Pets of the Week

Dean and Gerry

Dear animal lovers,

We are Dean and Gerry. We came to live at the shelter about two months ago because our human mommy was very sick and needed to leave the island for medical treatment. Sadly, she is not coming back. We were a pack of five dogs, all living together very nicely. Our three sisters already found a loving home, but we are still waiting. My brother, Gerry, is a brown male about nine years old. He is a bit like a teddy bear, soft and cuddly, and he loves to sleep under a tree. I'm Dean and I am six years old with beautiful black fur. I have plenty of energy and love to walk and play with toys, but also to give you hugs and kisses. We would really love to find a new home just like our sisters did. We are good with other dogs, together or alone whatever you can give us is perfect for us. We just want a nice home! Please come and visit us



at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26A. You can call 7014989 or 7174989 also available on WhatsApp, Facebook messenger and by email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or just pass by and ask for us !!

Story and Photo: Sanne Attevelt

Paige

Meowww, how are you? I was just sitting around the Cat Palace at Animal Shelter Bonaire dreaming about my hopefully soon to be human parents and thought I'd reach out to you Bonaire Reporter readers. My name is Paige. I'm an elegant female a little over two years old. In general, my behavior is excellent because I have been at the shelter since I was three months old, so I learned all the right stuff! I love to play with other cats but also love to explore the Cat Palace on my own. So, it won't be a problem for me to be alone or with some companions. I also really love to cuddle, but not too much...we gotta keep it cool! Do you think I would be the ultimate match for you? Then hurry up and come to meet me, Monday-Friday 10 am- 1 pm and 2 -3:30 pm and Saturday 10 am -3:30 pm,



Kaminda Lagun 26. See you then!!!

Story and Photo: Thamar Cachemir

fresh black dirt and let it rest for a while, perhaps a month or a few weeks. Then start again with vegetables, herbs and small fruits that will grow in that time of year.

Some gardeners like to do flowers. One of my friends has only flowers in his yard. The whole yard is full of all types and colors. He tries everything out to see how it grows and looks. He even pinches seeds and cuttings from plants during his travels to other countries. He gets the most exotic flowers and combines them with local flowering plants and trees. So beautiful! Of course, not all are successful and there is always some danger from drought, iguanas, lizards and white fly. But his successful plantings are amazing and what he gets from his experiences, patience and his love for plants.

So maybe I have stimulated you with this story to give your yard some color with plants and your body the best health by your own growing vegetables. I hope so, just do it .

High profile appointment made to airport board

Camiel Eurlings will join the Supervisory Board (SB) of Bonaire International Airport (BIA) on August 1. Eurlings is broadly experienced in aviation in



both business and government. He has been CEO of KLM and a supervisor at American Express Global Business Travel and GOL Airlines. He was Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in the Netherlands, a position that carried ultimate responsibility for Air Traffic Control, the Central Bureau for Driving Licenses and the Rijksdienst Wegverkeer, among other functions.

More than 60 people applied for the position on the airport board. The other two members are former ZVK director Angel Bermudez and Marco van de Kreeke, who previously managed the airport for several years as director. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

Parrots and People!

by Rayshantaly Coffie & Sara Remmes.



Threats to the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots

As the breeding season reaches its peak, Echo's field team has been hard at work studying the nesting success of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon in order to get a better understanding of what represents the greatest current threats to the wild population.

Unfortunately, but expectedly, several challenges emerged almost immediately after data collection began. Poaching has a historical prevalence on the island of Bonaire. Whether for cultural or economic incentives, the removal of chicks from nests continues to be a limiting fac-

tor for the ability of this species to persist in the wild.

In addition to poaching, threats such as the increase in feral cats has resulted in the loss of not only chicks, but adults within the nesting cavities. When you factor in the current level of deforestation removing available nesting sites, the future of the Yellow-shouldered Amazon on Bonaire starts to become increasingly uncertain. However, Echo still has hope that these threats can be addressed and mitigated and has started strategizing on new tactics in order to accomplish this objective.

The first and most important of these

ambitions is utilizing alternative members of authority to hold poachers accountable given the lack of support by local police forces.

Success with "Buki di prèt"

These past weeks have been very successful with the kids of "Buki di prèt".

Every kid who visits Echo with their "Buki di prèt" can pay a \$5 fee and get a chance to experience a tour to see our parrots in addition to creating crafts that have to do with our native ecosystem and organization.

This year we designed new ideas for crafts that include more of our natural surroundings.

The children who visit can now not only draw a parrot, but they can also utilize their own creativity to give their paper more color with leaves and other natural materials. Everyone who has already partaken in these activities has loved the experience, and happily took home their piece of art!

Another activity that we did with the children was showing them all of the exclusion areas that we have on Bonaire. These exclusion areas are designated plots of land where we have planted native trees in the wild so that the parrots can forage for food without entering people's gardens for resources. We have also explained to the children how these exclusion areas were made, and their importance for reducing human-wildlife conflict.

In total this month we have had 129 kids visit Echo with their "Buki di prèt" and we hope to see more children that are

excited to learn not only about our parrots, but about the beautiful natural surroundings here at our center.

Contact: - www.echobonaire.org



Statia bans single-use plastics

Businesses on Statia must use up all single-use plastic items by October 1, 2021. Then they must destroy any remaining single-use shopping bags, plastic straws, plastic stirrers, plastic utensils, plastic plates, plastic cups, plastic soup bowls, plastic cotton swabs, plastic balloon confetti, Styrofoam food containers and cups.

The Public Entity of St. Eustatius intends to reduce waste on the island and create a cleaner environment for residents and visitors. It declared the regulation in effect on April 1, 2021, giving stakeholders two months to use up their current stock of disposable products and six months to use up all single-use shopping bags.

DMR Bonaire.nu



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

- For any inquiries of your Cargo(arrival / invoices / payments), please call or e-mail us at 717-8922 / info@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com and avoid visiting our offices unnecessarily.
- Kindly pay your invoices through online banking and please e-mail proof of remittance to frontdesk@rocargo.com
- Pickup & Deliveries are on appointment, for arrangements please call or e-mail us at warehouse@rocargo.com and frontdesk@rocargo.com (use both e-mails)

