



Kabes Soliano enjoys the ride at the 54th Bonaire Regatta. Photo by Julie Morgan

54th Regatta is just for sailors

Everyone thought it wouldn't happen, but at the last moment the government came through and okay'd Bonaire's 54th Annual International Sailing Regatta, without the international. The regatta began Oct 8 and runs to Oct 16. It's a streamlined version of the usual party and festival atmosphere that attracts countless sailors and visitors from neighboring islands.

The 2021 regatta is for the Bonaire sailors. This one is all about the competition and the win, as it was in the first regatta back in 1968 between Captain Don Stewart and Ebo Domacasse.

The story goes that while working at Bonaire's original dive hotel, Flamingo Beach, Don and Ebo agreed to a challenge from a bar guest to race their boats the *Sislin* and *Vilia* respectively. The prize started at 10 cases of Amstel and grew to 27 donated by an enthusiastic crowd at the Flamingo bar.

Don writes in *The Adventures of Captain Don*, "It seemed that all was in readiness except for one small detail: the rules! There was no question that we were to circle Klein Bonaire, but in which direction and how to start and where to finish?

"The rules!" I kept screaming, "What are the rules?"

The bar went quiet... "There are no rules!"

Unlike that first regatta there is a complete handbook of rules each participant receives on registration. And, of course, the government was very specific in regard to covid regulations. This year's regatta shirts even say "keep three flamingos of space between you and others".



Windsurf contest for boys
 saw some close competition
 Photo Julie Morgan

STINAPA's marine park regulations are included in the handbook to protect our sensitive marine environment.

The first two days of Regatta, Saturday and Sunday were held at Sorobon where 10 sunfish sailors from Bonaire Sailing School competed in five races. Seven of the sailors will be headed to the 50th Sunfish World Championship in Sarasota, Florida Oct. 23 – 29. They will race again this weekend. The sailors all agreed this was a good warm-up prior to the championship competition.

Sorobon was also the site for the 10 boys, seven girls, six kids and four adults in the windsurfing competition.

The kite boarding contest scheduled for Monday to Wednesday was cancelled unfortunately due to uncooperative weather.

The sailors and Regatta volunteers will enjoy a barbeque on Wednesday evening at Kas di Regatta. With Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday off, the sailors can perhaps get in some extra practice time for the upcoming competitions.

Things start up again on Thursday with racing and sailing with the yachts, optimists, sunfish, sailboards/foil and the popular microboats. The award ceremony for the winning sailors will be Saturday.

The Reporter will publish results in our online version and on Facebook. There will also be additional Regatta photos on our Facebook page. Julie Morgan

Discharge of yacht sewage an urgent, complicated problem

Sewage and other waste water discharged from visiting yachts degrades the marine environment and needs to be prevented on Bonaire. All parties - STINAPA, OLB, WEB, the World Wildlife Fund - NL - agree on that. And the visiting yacht owners say they agree as well. At least that was one finding from the Marine Wastewater Survey 2021 conducted by marine surveyor Gerard van Erp.

During three weeks in April, van Erp visited and surveyed approximately 70 yachts moored to the buoys in the Bonaire National Marine Park. He collected waste water samples for analysis from the holding tanks of some yachts. He also gathered information about the equipment on the boats, or lack thereof, for handling sewage and waste water.

Thanks to van Erp's survey, Island authorities understand the dimensions of the local boat sewage problem. They also have been investigating how other jurisdictions have tackled it. Now they need to come up with their own plan . . . at which point the issue begins to get complicated.

The basic solution is straightforward. The only way to prevent boat sewage from being discharged into the Bonaire's waters is to transport it ashore where it can be treated the same as communal sewage. And either an owner has to bring their yacht to a pumpout facility provided at a dock, or an especially equipped pumpout boat must go to the yacht.

Providing a pumpout boat in the anchorage seems to be the favored solution as of now. In the longer term it would probably cost more than a dockside facility but be several times more likely to succeed because it would be the most convenient for the yacht captains. They always have an easy and immediate alternative when a holding tank is full: they can just open the discharge valve.

Deciding how to finance a pumpout service is pretty straightforward too. Bonaire's \$10 per day mooring fee, still relatively low in the Caribbean, could be increased. (Charging boats individually for pumpouts would be a major disincentive.)

So much for the easy part . . . The water quality tests conducted as part of van Erp's survey revealed the water in the yacht holding tanks has a high salt content. That sewage cannot be treated, then used for irrigation, as Bonaire's land sewage is.

Van Erp's survey also disclosed that many of the boats moored in the anchorage do not have usable holding tanks. Bonaire would have to choose between allowing an exemption for those boats or refusing them entry.

Then there's the dicey matter of assuring yacht captain compliance. In Washington State the law requires boat owners to empty their holding tanks at authorized pumpout stations, and the state has made compliance relatively easy. Puget Sound has at least 140 shoreside pumpout facilities that usually charge a small fee, and ten free mobile pumpout services that collect sewage directly from boats in marinas.

On the other hand, the law also requires boat owners to close the discharge valves on their holding tanks and secure them from being readily opened. The law also empowers the Coast Guard and other authorities to board and inspect boats. Owners without serviceable holding tanks or whose discharge valves can be opened easily and quickly are fined. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Selibon cleans up

During a clean-up campaign the week of September 18, Selibon collected a total of 15,560 kilos of waste. That was 1,730 kilos more than it cleaned up in 2020. Nikiboko, Rincon and North Saliña were the neighborhoods where the most waste was found. The items that turned up most frequently were: garden waste (branches and grass), electronic equipment such as televisions and washing machines, and bulky household waste (such as tables, chairs, mattresses). *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Condé Nast voters like Bonaire



When more than 800,000 readers of Condé Nast Traveler cast their ballots for 2021 Readers' Choice Awards, many liked Bonaire. They ranked Bonaire #10 in the category The Best Small Cities in the World. In the voting for the Caribbean and Atlantic, Aruba, Bonaire and were ranked jointly as #7 in the category Top Islands. *DMR*

Saba: Spuds yes, grass no

The Saba police, following up on alerts received through their anonymous tip line, have seized hemp plants at a home on Airport Road. People tend to forget that the cultivation of Hemp plants is still against the law in the islands.

In the meantime, a large shipment of seed potatoes is on its way to Saba from the European Netherlands. Rolando Wilson, the Commissioner of Agriculture, has alerted farmers to prepare their soil so planting can start as soon as the seeds arrive. The shipment is sponsored by Sandra Cryns-Hop and family as a gift to the Saba's farmers.

Saba, like the other two BES Islands, is encouraging local food production. The costs of dependence on imported food are skyrocketing. Charges for shipping by container have more than tripled over the past few months. *DMR (BESReporter)*

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 5

Covid-19 round-up

Bonaire has highest infection rate in Dutch Islands. According to the RIVM, 423 people per 100,000 inhabitants on Bonaire received a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result last week, and the number has been going up every week. Curaçao showed 219 infections per 100,000 inhabitants, St. Maarten 148 per 100,000 inhabitants, and Aruba 85 per 100,000 inhabitants. Of those tested on Bonaire, the positive rate has almost doubled in the past week, from 9.5% to 17.0%. The figures from the RIVM also show that since March, 91.5% of the infections have been people who have not been vaccinated. At press time, seven people were in the hospital, three of them in intensive care.

Bonaire (after Saba) also has highest vaccination rate: 15,726 people, 83%, are partially vaccinated; and 13,810, 73%, are fully vaccinated. Among those age 12-17, 710, almost 51%, are partially vaccinated; and 691, 43%, are fully vaccinated.

On Aruba 75% of all residents twelve and above have received their first vaccination against Covid-19. More than 70% of all adults have been fully vaccinated. Arubans claim to have the highest vaccination rate within the Kingdom. Bonaireans would challenge that declaration. The people on Saba would probably laugh at both claims.

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of OCTOBER 12, 2021

146 active	7 hospitalized
2235 total	19 deceased
83 % have had 1st vaccination	
Bonaire is at risk level 2.	

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

Divers award VIP with their votes



VIP Diving and owner Bas Noij celebrated their 12th anniversary earlier this month with not much more than acknowledging it. But Scuba Diving magazine gave them a well-deserved and earned gift for those 12 years by awarding VIP Diving seven places in Scuba Diving's Reader's Choice Awards for 2022.

- 2nd Place - Best Overall
- 2nd Place - Quality of Rental Gear
- 2nd Place - Quality of Facilities
- 2nd Place - Quality of Dive Training and Courses

- 3rd Place - Attention to Safety
- Top 5 - Quality of Staff
- Top 10 - Quality of Dive Boats

Scuba Diving has yet to make the announcement, but Bas shared the info with the Reporter and laughed saying that the real surprise was the award for Top 10 in quality of dive boats. VIP doesn't own dive boats, but they do run boat charters.

A quick look around VIP Diving and one can see why they received the awards. The facility is open, airy, light and was definitely designed with divers in mind. This is the home of VIP now, but it wasn't where it began.

Bas and wife Elie first came to Bonaire on vacation in 2003 and of course loved the island. Bas sold his IT business in Holland and the couple embarked on a two-year trip round the world and landed in Bonaire. Without a real plan, they spent time fixing up their new home and when boredom set in, they decided to go to work and see what happened. Elie went to work as a kayak guide before landing a job as a policy advisor at OLB and Bas worked in restaurants and dived.

"I regularly posted on Bonaire Talk and started diving with people from the chat and also the restaurant. I quickly became the 'other Bas' of diving because Bas Tol was the east coast king," said Bas.

After becoming an instructor he went to work teaching and guiding divers and

together with partner Michel Rumpff on October 1, 2009 he started VIP Diving at the Blue Divers Resort. They bought a couple of trucks, offered courses, guided dives and gear-tank rental and VIP was born.

"In mid 2014, Blue Divers wanted to rent the resort and the dive shop to someone else. We had two options – go big or

go home," said Bas.

They went big and bought a house converting it into an award winning dive shop. Walls were torn down, porches removed, a deck and pool were built, drive through tank pickup and gear rooms.

"We had a house and a blank sheet of

VIP Diving, continued on page 4



YELLOW MOUNTAIN 10 Caribbean Style Homes

Similar homes, like the to be built Yellow Mountain homes, can be viewed at the "SOLD OUT" Yellow Garden project in Nawati. Contact us for directions.



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POLICE REPORT

Found

September 30. At about 11:50 pm, an on-duty patrol found a scooter in the parking lot of a supermarket on Kaya Nikiboko South. The keys were still in the ignition. The owner of the scooter can report to the police station with proof of identity, a valid driver's license and the insurance papers to pick up the scooter.

Property crime

October 10. Around 11 pm a robbery in the Nawati district was reported. During the robbery, three assailants with their faces covered fired shots. There were no injuries.

October 9. A black Rockhopper bicycle was stolen from the back of a pick-up that was parked at a house on Kaya Esther.

September 29. A burglary was reported in a house on Kaya Uranus. The thieves forced the front door while the residents were on holiday abroad. They took a black Yale safe with contents, among other things, jewelry, cash and keys to the house.

Arrested/held in custody.

September 30. A man, 31, was arrested for burglary at a construction site on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot.

September 29. A man, 19, was arrested for theft. He was seen on video footage after he stole a bicycle at Kaya Frater Odulfus secondary school.

September 29. Another arrest was made in the Sabadeco robbery case. A young man, 17, was arrested in Rincon.

September 27. A man, 28, was arrested at a restaurant on Kaya Grandi for assaulting another man with a weapon in the Center area.

September 27. A woman, 22, was arrested at a house on Kaya Aripuana for embezzling money and goods from a store where she worked.

Traffic accidents/violations

October 8. At about 11:25 am a scooter apparently came to a sudden stop on Kaya Korona (the police report referred to it as a one-sided collision). The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

October 5. Around 7 am a bus, full of children, reversed from a parking lot on Kaminda Djabou and colliding with an oncoming car which crashed into the side of the bus. The driver of the car became hysterical because he thought his children, who were in the car with him, had been injured in the collision. He got out and tried to pull the bus driver out of the bus, hitting him in the face. He then started smashing the windows of the bus with stones. The driver, a 35-year-old man, was arrested for assault and destruction. Neither the children nor the drivers were injured as a result of the collision.

October 4. In the night hours a car was stopped and checked. The driver was arrested and charged for driving under the influence of alcohol and with an expired driver's license and insurance. Her driver's license was revoked and the car was taken into custody until valid insurance and driver's license can be presented.

September 28. A scooter and car collided on the bend near the main street exit of Kaya Grandi. The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance. There was some damage on both vehicles.

September 27. In the morning hours two cars collided on Kaya Korona. The drivers and occupants of both cars were all taken to hospital for medical treatment.

Traffic controls

October 5. In the afternoon, 27 vehicles were checked at Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund and Kaya Carlos A. Nicholas. Official reports were issued for calling while driving (1) and for driving without: a seat belt (3), insurance (5), a driver's license (2).

September 30. Between 11am and noon at Kaya Internashonal, 13 vehicles were checked and 12 official reports were issued for driving without: a seat belt (5), insurance (5), a driver's license (1), a helmet (1). Violations were also issued for calling while driving (1) and for the technical condition of a vehicle (6) *The fines for the above violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.*



Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice

I see most houses are sold furnished. If I don't want the furniture, will the Seller lower the price? Elise

Hi Elise,
Many homes on Bonaire are sold furnished, especially if the owners don't live on the island. Rather than ship furniture off the island, the Sellers leave it. Used furniture does not have high value, so generally Sellers are not willing to reduce the selling price if you don't want the furniture. If you buy a furnished home and don't want the items, you can donate them to a Bonaire charity or sell them. When making an offer on a furnished

property, you will receive an inventory list that shows what items are included. At the final walkthrough prior to closing, this list is used to verify that the items listed remain with the home.

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.

Fire

October 11. Around 7 am an on-duty patrol discovered a fire in a garden shed in the yard of a house in Amboina. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. An extension cord was probably the cause.

Night of October 5-6. A car crashed into the mondi near Kaminda Djabou and caught fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. The driver was treated at the scene by paramedics

Public Order

October 8. The police station received a report that a person had fallen ill in Rincon. When the ambulance and patrol arrived, the 37-year-old woman showed no sign of life. The medical examiner who came to the scene determined that it was a natural death..

Curaçao police officers convicted for phony raids

Six officers from the Curaçao Police Force have been charged with stealing money and drugs while conducting illegitimate raids at six addresses in September of last year. Three have been convicted. A separate trial of the other three is in progress and a judicial ruling is scheduled for November 22, after which sentences will be announced for all six.

The police officers are accused of working together to conduct unauthorized raids on homes where they expected to find drugs. They acted on their own, used a false entry notice, and were not accompanied by the public prosecution

service. Afterward they destroyed the CCTV footage that recorded the search and failed to report whatever money and drugs they may have found. When the raids were publicized later, the six police officers jointly signed a false report in an attempt to cover what they had done.

The sentences demanded by the prosecution at this point range from four years and three years in prison for two of the officers, to two years suspended prison sentence plus 240 hours community service for the third. He confessed and cooperated with the prosecutor early on. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

VIP Diving, continued from page 3

paper and tried to think like a diver and we came up with this. I'm pretty proud of what we built with the whole team and that it's working exactly as intended," said Bas.

VIP works on a small scale (only four students per class) and gives personal attention to groups and individuals.

Sustainability of the island's nature is a major factor in the daily operations at VIP. Bas majored in environmental engineering in college and though he never worked in the field, he believes it has to be an integral part of VIP's business model.

"Nature is why we are all here and why our guests come here," said Bas.

The dive shop encourages sustainability in their actions every day by giving guest a metal water bottle to discourage

the use of single use plastics. Free mineral 'reef safe' sunscreen is available in a dispenser to dissuade the use of coral killing oxybenzone and octinoxate in most sunscreens. VIP is solar powered and only switches to WEB energy on cloudy days and a compressor powers the many tank fills.

Students taking a course get a donation in their name to PADI's Project Aware. Locally, the dive shop backs Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, lionfish removal and Reef Renewal by tending their own coral nursery. The STINAPA Jr. Rangers receive gear, tanks and training with VIP instructors donating their time, equipment and facilities.

The dive shop's quality rental gear was Reader's Choice #2 pick but you can also buy equipment. VIP offers on demand PADI courses from beginner to profes-

sional including tech diving.

VIP's 15 staff members are trained to follow marine park rules and teach divers the skills needed to protect our reefs and marine life.

In addition to the 2022 Scuba Diving awards VIP Diving has been rated #1 by Trip Advisor since the beginning and were the first dive operation to be named a three star Blue Destination certified business.

Bas said, "We work really hard ... if someone is not completely happy I sit down with them and talk. We aim for 100 percent customer satisfaction."

Bas Noij serves on the STINAPA board as vice president, Business Federation Bonaire, BONHATA president and is president of supervisory board for the recompression chamber.

The Reporter congratulates VIP Diving for its 12th year in operation and bring-

ing Bonaire to the forefront of diving again with their seven wins in Scuba Diving's Reader's Choice Awards. We only wish the magazine had a "most sustainable" dive shop category to serve as an example for dive operations worldwide. Story and photos Julie Morgan



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.

Plantation Bolivia, is it a secret?

Letter to the Editor

Good governance, among other things, requires straight answers. Yet none are forthcoming from Bonaire's Ruimte and Ontwikkeling ('R and O') department regarding its plans for Plantation Bolivia. On the contrary, for whatever its reasons, the government refuses to set forth its position on Plantation Bolivia.

On September 8, 2021, Bonaire's Executive Council published notice that it had approved the start of work on an environmental impact assessment ('MER') regarding Plantation Bolivia. Yet, when asked for a copy of the project that the environmental impact assessment is intended to address, R and O failed to respond. A simple question: how can an environmental impact assessment be undertaken for a project when R and O fails to acknowledge the existence of the project, itself?

Equally confusing are representations regarding a supposed Memorandum of Understanding. A reliable source reports that there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the owner of Plantation Bolivia and authorized Government representatives which addresses development of Plantation Bolivia. Yet Jeroen Recourt, a representative in the first chamber of the Dutch Parliament, has advised me in writing (August 2021), that he has been in discussions with several representatives of Bonaire's Government about Plantation Bolivia and that the representatives had assured him that the Government had no plans to develop the property.

The Government's abject failure in providing straight answers, indeed, any answers, regarding its plan for Plantation Bolivia is clear evidence of its failure to engage in good governance.

As the Island Governor pointed out to me, if people are unhappy with the Government, they are free to go to court.

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia

Wilma Nijland.

Course offered on climate and tourism

Wageningen University & Research is holding a five week online course, for anyone interested in global tourism's impact on climate change. (See also page 12.)

For more information go to.

<https://www.wur.nl/en/show/Tourism-and-Climate-Change-1.htm>

Bonaire's tourism is having an impact on climate change and everyone should be concerned. We are trying to get back on our feet economically from Covid-19 after over a year and a half of very little tourism but every decision we make is hurting our environment as well as the world climate.

A new tourism master plan was developed after realizing the old one wasn't really syncing with Bonaire's nature. Still more can be done. Plans are still being adjusted but we still seem to be doing everything we can to bring more tourism to the island to charge our economy. Increased tourism affects our air, nature and oceans. Informed decision making regarding Bonaire tourism should include knowledge about how we can make tourism work for Bonaire and our planet, not against it. We all need to be more informed about how we can still have tourism but at the same time negotiate climate change, otherwise we will lose it all. *Julie Morgan*



More dirty air crossing the Atlantic

The trade winds have been blowing volcanic ash across the Caribbean from the Cumbre Vieja volcano on the Spanish island of La Palma. The volcano has been erupting for weeks. More dust has been arriving from the Sahara as well. Windy conditions are forecast to continue. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

Activity project for the elderly piloted, will continue

Thirty people 55 to 95 have been piloting a (Re)activation Elderly project. The project is intended to improve their health/lifestyle, both physically and mentally, by engaging them in activities and bringing them into contact with each other. Divided into three groups of ten, they have participated in weekly events including bingo, bon kun'e, aqua fitness, cooking together, visiting Mangazina di Rei and Botanical garden, a bus tour to the south and north sides of Bonaire and a fall prevention course.

A project of the Social Support and Labor Department (MOA) of the public body Bonaire, (Re)activation Elderly has teamed with the Bon Bida Bonaire health center, MHC and Zorg en Welzijn Groep. The project is being extended. Those older than 55 who want to participate can contact Shaëdra Baromeo at 777-3745. *DMR*

Oil spill workshop conducted

The annual workshop has been conducted to help Bonaire respond to an oil spill if one occurs. Personnel from various government agencies learned how to cope with oil disasters and received training in how to use equipment specially designed to clean up a possible oil spill at sea, such as inflatable oil booms, skimmer pumps and a current buster.

The workshop was conducted by Rijkswaterstaat (RWS), the organization charged with preparing and aiding various agencies that may have to deal with disasters. It works with the harbor master if an incident occurs at sea. RWS is on Bonaire every year to transfer their expertise and knowledge, and it purchases the materials local authorities would need.

A team of the Fire Brigade, the Coast Guard, Stinapa, the tugboat company KTK from Curaçao, the port office, the Supervision and Enforcement Department and the disaster coordinator of the Public Entity Bonaire attended the training session. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu)*

Sint Maarten Prime Minister breaks finger

Sylvia Jacobs, the combative Prime Minister of Sint Maarten, fell from her bicycle and broke her finger. Some have speculated that a finger injury might hinder her ability to express her feelings to the Dutch. *DMR*

Party politics on Bonaire

Orphaline van Saleh, an advisor at the office of Deputy Hennyson Thielman, has become active as a member of the newly appointed board of Movimentu di Pueblo Boneriano (MPB). She formerly held a senior position within the MCB Bank on Bonaire and worked as an independent consultant with her company Sage. She has not been known as having political ambitions. MPB is led by Elvis Tjin Asjoe and is a part of the governing coalition. Daisy Coffie, who broke away from MPB a year ago to form a new party and has been active as an independent voice, has changed the name of her party from Partij Coffie to Movimentu 21 (M21). *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu, Bonaire.nu)*

Road past marina to be rebuilt

A road hazard long familiar Bonaireans will soon be eliminated. During rainy months, seawater has flowed freely onto the road at the Harbor Village marina and resort despite many temporary emergency fixes. That road will be rebuilt.

Beginning October 15 Kaya Gouverneur Debrot will be closed and signs will divert traffic. The project is expected to take two weeks. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

500 Bonaire palms to be planted on Klein Bonaire

Preparations have been made on Klein Bonaire for the planting of 500 Bonaire palms, the island's endemic species of the Sabal palms. The Dutch army kicked off the project in May by digging the holes. Recently other volunteers prepared the holes to receive the young trees and placed bottles of water for irrigating the young plants until they are sufficiently rooted to survive despite the scant rainfall on the island.

An initiative of former Stinapa director, Elsmarie Beukenboom, the project is part of the Klein Bonaire Reforestation Project, which includes Green Force and Stinapa. The organization has recently received help from Mangrove Maniacs volunteers as well. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Sorting waste does work for Bonaire

Members of the BONHATA Sustainability Committee saw with their own eyes that trash separation works during a visit to Selibon's Waste & Processing Management Center this month. They learned the processing of cardboard is now so successful that a larger press has been purchased. They were told how the island will start reusing collected glass in the near future. They also learned that when trash arrives at the landfill unseparated, Selibon can only bury it. To be recycled, trash has to be sorted by the public. We all have to discard our refuse in the right containers.

"I often hear that the separately collected waste would all end up together on the landfill," entrepreneur Eric Gietman said. "Now that I see this, I am happy to separate my company waste at the source."

Woman jailed for phony test results

A woman involved in conducting commercial PCR and antigen tests has been arrested on suspicion of issuing fake test results. Authorities were alerted on Saturday, September 2, when several passengers checking in for a flight to the United States showed up with suspicious test documents. The authorities soon determined that the agency that supposedly issued the test results was not aware of the group of travelers and had never issued them test results.

The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (military police) were called in and began an investigation. The woman was arrested and detained. The investigation is continuing with the active participation of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) and the Public Health Department of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). The authorities want to determine whether the woman abused her position to falsify the tests, and whether the violation has been committed previously. *DMR*

Visit us!



Keeping divers diving



Owners Hens Silva and wife Sigrid Cabella.

Xprodiver in downtown Kralendijk is dedicated to getting divers diving with the right equipment and keeping them diving. The little shop is packed full of only top rated dive equipment that is first tried by owners Hens Silva and wife Sigrid Cabella. If the equipment passes their tests, then it is made available at Xprodiver.

Hens and Sigrid opened the Bonaire shop in 2016 but this wasn't his first. Hens got into the dive business in Caracas, Venezuela with the first Xprodiver

shop in 2008. He discovered Bonaire through dive trips he organized and ran for XPro three or four times a year. On one of the dive trips he and Sigrid were married in a destination style wedding. They already loved the island but their wedding made it even more special and they thought it would be great to have a dive operation here. They made the big move and XProDiver Bonaire was born.

Sigrid said, "We loved the beauty of the island, the diving, the awesome wild life and nature. The people were very warm and welcoming and we thought it was a good place for raising a child."

Xprodiver offers an impressive array of the latest equipment: Atomic, Bare, Zeagle, Hollis, Oceanic, Mares, Stahlsac and Kraken brands. XPro also has an amazing amount of dive gadgets.

Sigrid said, "Hens makes sure he has all the different dive accessories just in case someone needs one."

Hens is a certified Atomic and Zeagle repairman and has the know how to repair all the brands so he can keep divers diving.

Xprodiver offers the basic courses: Discover Scuba, open water junior, Seal Team for kids 8-10, open water, advanced rescue, dive master and a not so basic tech side mount. They even teach a Hollis Prism2 rebreather class. XPro takes referrals from E-Learning and

does online private classes to ensure divers get all the attention they need to develop their skills and address any special needs. XPro recently added a second instructor who speaks Dutch, Martijn Klijnstra, to help Hens with the teaching duties.

Sigrid said, "Our students are not just a number. Hens really cares about them."

Certified divers can sign up for guided and customized shore and boat dives.

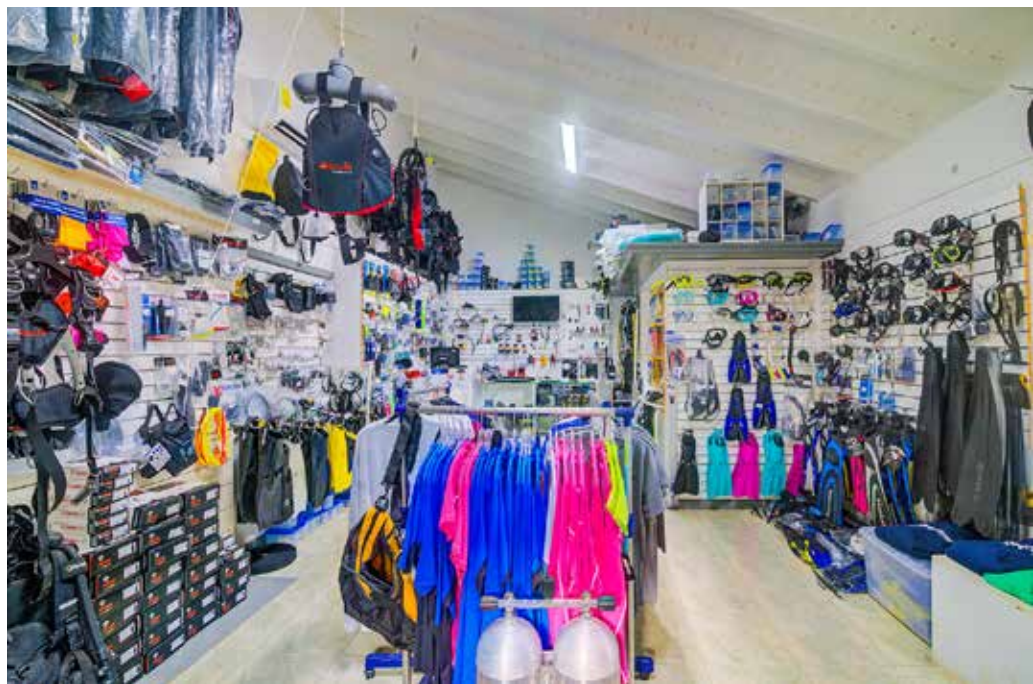
Hens said, "We try to let our guests decide

where they want to go whether by boat or shore to special dive sites with tanks and gear if they need it."

Xpro has a 24 ft boat that holds up to 14 divers but never dives more than four to six divers.

For more information visit <https://xprodiver.com> or on Facebook. Call 599-777REEF (7333). The shop is open Monday – Saturday 8:30 – 6pm.

Visit *The Reporter's* business page online for a direct link. *Story and photos Julie Morgan*



A look inside Xprodiver reveals an assortment of top dive equipment

WELCOME BACK

Picture Yourself

on the boardwalk Ocean City, MD, USA



Alan and Joan Zale, left, who recently completed their 49th visit to Bonaire, spent the weekend visiting Maryland and Delaware seeing different dive buddies who they have missed seeing over the past 18 months.

Phil Potts, right, regularly dives with Alan and Joan on their winter trip.

The Bonaire Reporter Joan Zale and Diane Potts are holding features a cover photo shot by Alan Zale, for a story about the pot hole problem on Bonaire.

The photo of the Zales and the Potts was taken on the boardwalk at Ocean City, MD, in front of

Thrashers, which is famous for their single menu item, French fries. Phil Potts has been going to Thrashers for more than forty years and walking the boardwalk there brought back memories of his youth. *by Alan Zale*

WIN A PRIZE! Are you elsewhere? We'd love to see you in *The Reporter*. Hold up the printed cover, or go digital and pose with *The Reporter* on your tablet, computer, or phone. Please identify everybody in your photo, and tell us about yourselves. All 2021/2022 photos are eligible for the annual prize.



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Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr



"Ripley's Believe It or Not shows common misunderstandings about marine animals in 1986."

Progress

You're cruising along our reef slope, and you see, and automatically collect, a Polar bottle. Maybe you see another diver accidentally kick over a coral colony. Things can be so upsetting sometimes, but progress is being made. Consider the following:

My scuba class, through a dive shop, consisted of myself and two teenagers who were looking forward to using scuba for spearfishing (legal at the time off South Florida). Once I had my certification, I had no one to dive with and no way to get to the reefs -- until I discovered Carl.

At that time, in 1972, Carl Gage's dive operation in Key Largo not only accepted uncertified divers, he'd often announce that, in his experience, certified divers had more problems. On the boat, he'd assign one guide to each group of three to five divers; they'd swim in a big loop, then return to an area beneath the boat where many of the guides (including Carl himself) would stand on

a coral head (yes, that's accurate: coral head, not coral rock. Alive, not dead.) and watch the divers until everyone was back aboard. Then they'd raise the anchor (yes, that's accurate) and return to shore. All this legally in John Pennekamp State Park.

In the next year a 40-passenger dive boat started up in Miami. The captain used to insist on taking us to the shallower reef first "for the snorkelers," of which there were never many. We requested, demanded, even begged for a deeper-reef-first profile, but the captain stayed stubborn.

One wily diver created a solution. John S. was an experienced deep diver, cave diver, and dive instructor trainer, none of which accomplishments had titles back then. He did our usual time at the first dive, to a depth of just under 60'. On the second dive, to not-quite-90', John used double-72's. Although he actually did the same dive as the rest of us, we all told the captain that John had stayed longer and needed to decompress. (No dive computers yet.) John "decompressed" for more than 30 minutes -- an especially heroic act since the water was pretty chilly -- and the captain never again scheduled the deeper dive last.

This was a challenging time for divers. Much of the information about marine critters came from fishers and spearfishers, who sometimes had had their bleeding, struggling victims grabbed by sharks, or morays, or even sea lions. Spearfishers, who are predators themselves, learned to expect "attacks" from other predators -- and as a result, so did most sport divers. Ripley's Believe It or Not, as recently as 1986, called morays and spiny urchins "dangerous creatures of the deep that even veteran divers avoid".

Considering this "we're likely to attack any time" viewpoint about marine animals, it's not surprising that gloves were a standard part of dive gear. At first they were strictly practical, for "protection" from coral (never mind what happens to the coral) and stinging critters; then, as brightly-colored gear began to be fashionable, brightly-colored gloves were the perfect accessory. Photographers loved them, too, because they looked better than boring old skin-colored hands.

Are you thinking, "Gloves? Gloves aren't allowed in Bonaire's National Marine Park!" And you're right, but do you know why? Years ago, our dive guides noticed that coral was rarely touched by barehanded divers -- and then not for long -- but that divers wearing gloves would often brace themselves on a live coral head. Bonaire's

dive operators themselves requested our glove prohibition -- isn't that great?!

So oh yes, there is progress. And Bonaire is still on the leading edge of that progress.

Learn what you can, pass on the information to those who need to know it when you can, and always remember divemaster Gaby's advice: "If you're a reef lover, better hover!"

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.



Diver standing on coral head: "We didn't know enough to realize we were injuring the coral. You can tell how long ago this photo was taken by looking at the diver's gear, especially his pressure gauge."

PARROTS and PEOPLE

by Rayshantaly Coffie



Echo concentrates on reforestation

Since January the Echo team has dedicated most of their time to monitoring the parrots' nests, collecting interesting and useful data. Now till the end of the year the team will begin monitoring Echo's reforestation efforts.

Since habitat loss and degradation threaten the parrots, the team will take advantage of Bonaire's rainy season to plant more trees. For greater success we have enlisted two new forestry interns to help us knowledgeably introduce more trees in to the wild.

Our interns Sanne and Natanja study Forestry and Nature Management at the Van Hall Larenstein University in the Netherlands with a specialization in Tropical Forestry.

The interns came to Bonaire in September and will be here for five months dedicating their time exclusively to Echo Reforestation efforts. Together they are going to monitor six of the reforestation areas. They will measure which trees planted by Echo survived and how big they are at moment. With this information we can see how successful the planting is in different areas. We will start with the areas at Seru Largu, Morotin, Kach'I

Baka and later go to the larger zones of Yerba di Seru, Brazil and Saliñ'i Tam. The areas in the National Park will be monitored by another team of students.

Besides monitoring the areas, each intern will do separate research such as investigating which of the local fruit species grow the best in different circumstances.

Echo will also continue to set up an app that can be used to monitor the reforestation project for future volunteers, interns and people of the community. With the app they can do independent data collection in the future.

Results from Seru Largu:

With the Seru Largu reforestation site being almost done, the first results are:

- At least 66% of the trees which were originally planted here have survived.
- Six trees are taller than two meters (doubled in size)
- The highest tree is 2.57 meters, which means it has more than doubled in two years.

We hope to conclude that the area

planted in 2019 is doing well and the number of dead trees is not extremely high for degraded land.

This exclusion area was fenced in 2017 to keep the goats out, but on two occasions the fence was destroyed allowing the goats to enter the reforestation area.

For this reason we planted the first trees in 2019 with one of our education groups and later organized a tree planting day where not more than 1000 trees were out planted. The exclusion area has been goat proof since then, so we will plant more trees before the end of the year. You can visit the Seru largu exclusion area at any time to see for yourself.



New project to protect the southern coast



Working to keep our mangroves healthy and growing for a sustainable future through outplanting are: Veronica de Haan, Maggie Cosmini, Matteo Bravo, Vanessa Peralta, Jill Dean, Loeki Nicolaa, Wessel van den Berge, Sabine Engel, Caylee Cicilia, Jan van der Ploeg, Joost van Gaalen, Chihiro Geuzebroek, Jessica Johnson, Bart Rutten. Photo Julie Morgan

In July 2021, the Bonaire Mangrove Restoration Project was started to improve the health of mangrove forests on Bonaire. This project is being executed using funds from Best 2.0+ initiative, Ministry of LNV and Stinapa and with the support of volunteers from the Mangrove Maniacs. The outplanting event held October 3 was a part of this new four-part project.

The four-part project includes (1) mangrove channel maintenance and development (2) the creation and maintenance of mangrove nurseries, (3) mangrove out-

planting and (4) education and outreach. This project will serve to improve water circulation throughout the Lac Bay forest as well as extend and improve mangrove areas around Bonaire.

The outplant nurseries are located within the mangrove channels to allow the new mangroves to grow and develop in as natural conditions as possible. Mangrove propagules (which are actually clones not seeds) can be found easily throughout the forest. We have a group of volunteers that carefully select healthy propagules and plant them within the nurseries. Once the mangroves reach a healthy size, we are able to move them from the nurseries to plant along the coast. The goal of this is to increase the natural mangrove fringing forest to provide coastal protection for the southern salt pans in the future. As sea level rises and we experience worsening storm conditions due to climate change, these types of coastal protections will become increasingly important.

The recent outplanting event was a nice mixture of dedicated Mangrove Maniacs as well as some new faces. We are hoping that by diversifying the types of activities we host we can expand our volunteer base to improve community involvement and increase overall awareness on the importance of the mangroves.

The next outplanting event will be held on November 6th. For more information, please check out the Mangrove Maniacs' Facebook page. *By Jessica Johnson*



Mangrove Maniac Joost van Gaalen outplants a nursery grown plant. Photo Julie Morgan



Shelter says thanks



Hello kitty. Photo Julie Morgan

Animal Shelter Bonaire is so grateful to the many, many visitors to our Book Fair and Flea Market on October 3. The event was a tremendous success and the sales and bar donations provided much needed financial support for the Shelter. A special thanks to the vendors who contributed to the day's success: Dog Partner Bonaire Homemade Dog Cook-

ies by Roos the cookie chef, Sugar Thief Bonaire, The Island Preserve Company, Sylvia's Cadeau, and the Indonesian and Dominican food stands. Kudos as well to the Shelter staff and volunteers and big thanks to the awesome work of the Pakus di Pruga crew! Keep your eye out for another market event during the coming holiday season!. *Jane Disko.*



Left to right: Sue and Richard Willis of The Island Preserve Co., Aaron Martinez of Sugar Thief Bonaire and a satisfied customer. Photo Julie Morgan



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Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

High-Tech Charity Fundraising in 2021

Home-grown Bonairean technology saves the day

Why is it harder to fundraise in 2021 than it was before? The answer is the number “19”, as in COVID-19. No longer are people allowed to go door-to-door soliciting donations, hold walkathons, bake sales, car washes, or events like Black-Tie Auctions to raise money for their charities. We were no longer able to hold flea markets, book sales, farmers markets or other fundraising events. (Although this is now opening up a bit more as of late.)

Unfortunately, the charities such as animal rescues, shelters and sanctuaries are running low or out of funds to keep operating. Being heavily involved in the operations and funding of charities like this, I decided to use my technical background to try and help solve a major part of the problem.

How did you solve it? I created the www.AnimalShelter.Cards website system which is a simple way for people to buy and collect the digital equivalent of “Baseball Cards”, but instead of athletes, each card represents an animal at the shelter. Your purchase of the card

is like a virtual adoption of the pet and the shelter is then able to tell you stories, send you photos and videos about your virtual pet’s life and celebrate the happy moment when it is adopted into a physical forever home.

How does it work? Every time a shelter has a new tenant, the staff there takes a photo, enters the information, and creates the card in minutes. The system will then email all previous purchasers of the cards from the shelter about the new collectable card, make it available on our site, and post it on the shelter’s social media sites. Individuals like yourself can also share a card directly via social media or your own email.

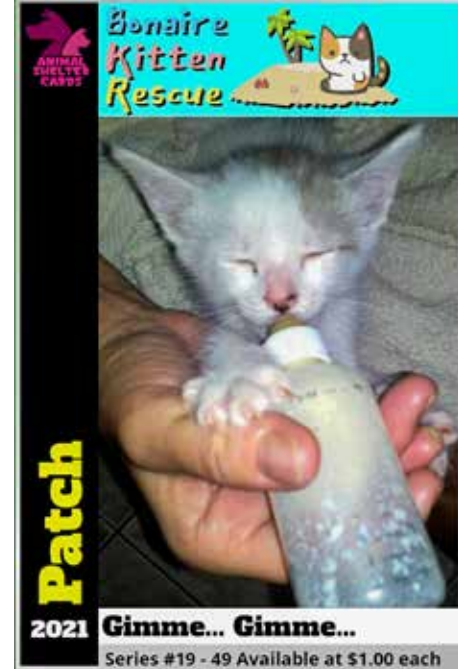
How much does each card cost? The shelter determines the cost of each card and how many to create. For example, a healthy kitten may have 1,000 cards at \$1.00 each created, while a puppy that needs immediate medical help may have 100 cards at \$25 each created. There is no pre-set amount.

Who gets the money? To make it as

transparent and safe as possible, the cards are purchased with PayPal™, and the money goes directly to the organization’s PayPal™ account with no middleman. This immediately moves the money where it is required instead of “at the end of the campaign and only if you raised what you set out to raise” like GoFundMe and other sites, and the shelter may be able to provide a tax receipt if you require it.

Why start here on Bonaire? We live here and look after animals here, thus Bonaire is our test location with the Bonaire Kitten Rescue. Once the technology tests are completed, we will offer it to the other shelters on Bonaire. Based on the proof of financial success with the 20,000 people on-island, we plan to start showing the success to the 13,500 shelters and sanctuaries in the USA next week, with expansion plans that encompass a large part of the globe in the coming months. Please assist us in buying a card or more this week and sharing our website with your friends and family off-island so we can launch it worldwide as fast as possible.

In future we will be adding, as suggested by your own publisher of The Bonaire Reporter, Julie, the option to create a card with your own pet(s) and as they sell, the money goes directly to the shelter or charity that you specify and maybe even a “Cutest or funniest pet of the month”



contest. As the user base grows, we will also offer a “Lost Pet” notification service where you can immediately send out a picture and description of a lost pet to all users in the immediate area.

As we come to the end of 2021 with no real changes in sight, everyone needs to pull together to help look after the critters who can’t look after themselves. With your help, we hope that www.AnimalShelter.Cards can assist in a big way. If you know of any shelters or organizations who need help, please introduce them to us and we’ll do what we can to assist their fundraising efforts.



Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

Ignite your daily success with a *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

Your Mental Health Matters!

Reflection For Today

“What mental health needs is more sunlight, more candor, more unashamed conversation.” - Glenn Close

Tip For Today

“Our mental health matters, Swinda!”

Swinda turned and looked at her best friend as they both were stretching just before their Malecon Sunset Power Walk.

“I’ve been reading up on this mental health thing and Swinda...it’s a bigger problem than most of us realize! And not just here in Paradise (also known as Bonaire!)”

Mental health problems, ranging from issues like depression and anxiety disorders to conditions like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, affect millions of people around the world.

And it can start as simply as by feeling overwhelmed or stressed.

Even though mental health is so prevalent, it still is one of the most neglected forms of health worldwide.

And the Covid-19 pandemic has caused an additional major impact on our mental health.

Things we took for granted like traveling, going to the gym, and eating out were continually disrupted for an ex-

tended period of time.

We went from hugging and kissing to spatial distancing to social distancing.

Our mental health has been put to the test like never before with increased uncertainty, fear, sadness, shame, loneliness, and loss of loved ones.

The purpose of World Mental Health Day (October 10th) and Mental Health Awareness Month (October) is to raise awareness of mental health issues, increase education on this important topic, and eliminate the stigma attached to it.

Of course, not every mental health illness is preventable, but some can be better managed or even prevented, with proper care and support.

Together with family, friends, professionals, and our community...we can make a difference!

These are the tips that Chichi shared with her best friend so she can optimize her mental health...

- 1. What you feed your mind matters.** Everything begins with a thought and what you think about you bring about.
- 2. Being active and fit matters.** Engaging in sports, exercise, and activities can improve your self-esteem, your sleep patterns, and your overall health...including your mental health.

3. Sharing your feelings matters.

Your thoughts affect your feelings, and both affect your behavior. Connect with a trusted friend or family member, your home doctor, or a mental health professional who can provide you with the necessary care and support.

Remember...

Successful people know that mental health matters and they are intentional about managing their thoughts, feelings, and activities so they can live their best life.

Swinda listened very carefully to Chichi and as she finished stretching, she saw that her bestie was waiting for her to respond...

“Yes, Chichi, I agree with you...our mental health matters!

Why do you think I love our Malecon Sunset Power Walks?

Are you ready? Let’s go!”

Affirmation For Today

My mental health matters. Today I am living my best life and my mind, body, and soul are working together to keep me healthy and happy.

So...Think, be equipped, feel empowered, and... **Live Inspired Today!**

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. Success is a journey and Malcolm defines success as “Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people.”

Poem for Today

State Of Mind

*Your health; most important thing, they say.
What if one day, bit by bit it all
starts to sway?*

*Your body's working,
your mind's jerking.
Bit by bit or in a jiff...gone;
all you thought made you someone.*

*Souls go through life not knowing anyone
to bring relief from their state of grief
“Oh Lord, give me Peace,” their daily plead.*

*Look away or play a part
in changing someone's heart?
Are we all just as insane,
as the ones with aching brains?
Until we see that lending a hand
might help someone live life happily through
to the end.*

*A smile, a light might just be enough to change
a mind.
Oh State of Mind...If only we could be so kind.*

Geneviève Gougou

Art teacher, visual artist, word-worker and owner of “Self” (an initiative for Artistic and Spiritual development) Bonaire, CN

*I love any creative endeavor that lets me
manifest an idea into form and with poetry I
get to play with language in a way that touches
hearts and brings awareness.*

Box Jellies of Bonaire: Caribbean Cubozoans

by Bud Gillan, Educator & Researcher

Bonaire is loaded with surprises! Every day we see new organisms. When blackwater snorkeling amazing post-larval organisms rise from the deep meso-benthic layers. Most of them are new to us. One night eight PhD's admitted they didn't know most of what they saw. It is that way every night.

Many of the organisms are jellies of all shapes, sizes, and colors with wild-looking stinging apparatus. Jellyfish have tentacles loaded with toxic nematocysts. The tentacles feed the jelly's mouths that are inside the bell. The manubrium is the inside stomach and tube-like esophagus that extends out past the end of the bell. (We feed the box jellies to watch them use their tentacles to shove food into themselves like a teen eating pizza.)

Jellyfish populations and their importance are exploding around the world. A jellyfish protein, GFP, has transformed genetics leading to a Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Entering the medical realm, some jelly proteins and venom are being used to ID viral infections and improve brain health.

Jellyfish are more than jelly. They are the most toxic animals in the world. As

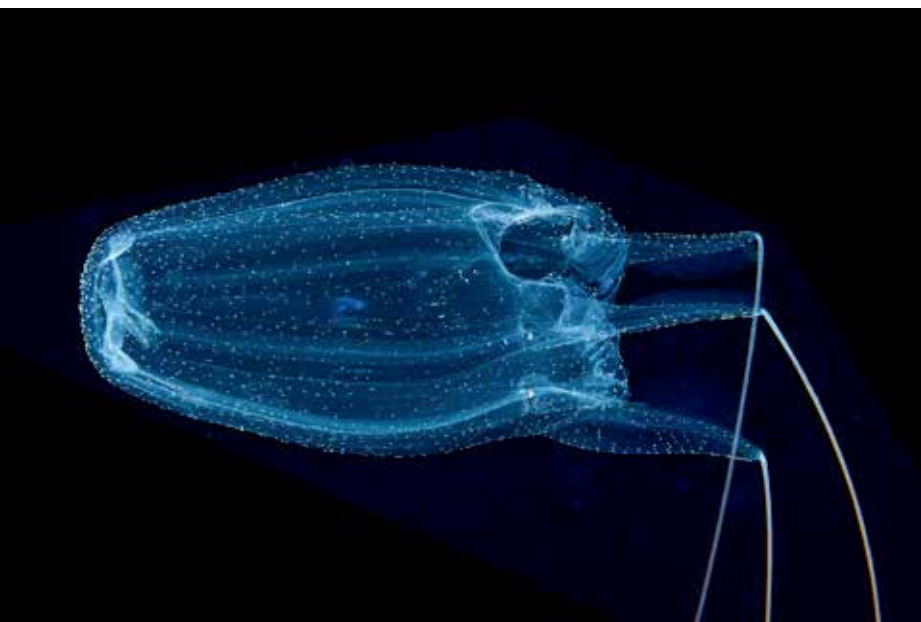
we look at the four Cubozoans you may be surprised Bonaire has so many venomous jellies.

Tamoya ohboya

Teams from The Smithsonian Institute helped identify a newly discovered species nicknamed the Bonaire Banded Box Jelly, and scientifically, *Tamoya ohboya*. Found mainly on Bonaire, this is a very rare species but quite amazing in banded looks, speed, extreme toxicity, appearing mainly in daylight. I have been researching this creature since 1998. About 100 sightings have been documented and recorded across the Caribbean. Google Images of this unique organism and see the differences in banding patterns and colors. **Beauty and danger scales: 10:10.**

Alatina alata

The most common, worldwide box jelly is known as the "sea wasp." *Alatina alata* populations visit Bonaire monthly in large swarms called "smacks" for reproductive "spermcasting" 8 to 10 days after a full moon (October 20th this month). Found more at night, they are 24-hour inhabitants. Their tentacles vary



The *Alatina alata* or sea wasp. Photo Linda Ianniello.



The Bonaire Reporter Oct. 13 - Oct. 27, 2021



Bud Gillan teaching about a new jellyfish species and its processes to a group of AP Biology students in Florida. Photo courtesy Palm Beach Post

from pink to purple and can be up to 1.5 meters. They are highly toxic and responsible for most of the serious stings on Bonaire. Diving and snorkeling on these nights is not a good idea without proper protection. One recent sting (July, 2021) was so serious it required medical evacuation to Houston. Bonaire's medical teams at the hospital are well-trained. The recent STINAPA Alert provides the most current medical protocols for jellyfish stings including hot water soaks and the effective antidote Sting No More (www.stingnomore.com). Several species of cubozoans have stings that produce a potent but delayed reaction called an "Irukandji syndrome". **Beauty and danger scales: 8:9.**

Carybdea xaymacana (blerkii)

Carybdea is a common Genus of Cubozoa. Bonaire has a potentially second new, undescribed species of box jelly. Discovered a decade ago by my underwater buddy, Johan van Blerk, this box jelly is found in large numbers and is responsible for numerous stings. While not as toxic, it can still cause a lot of pain. It has a clear bell but note the intense purple tentacles. As with all box jellies notice the four well-formed eyes on each of the four sides of these animals. The eyes have optic roots, retinas, lens, focusing abilities, and nervous tissues that connect all parts of the jelly but how they see is still not understood on a cellular level. Knowing that they see you while you are in the water is indeed unnerving. Genetic

and morphologic work continues to determine if this a new species. **Beauty and danger scales: 7:6**

Tripedalia cystophora

The most uncommon cubozoan on Bonaire is the "mangrove box jelly". It is small, rare, and hard to find at the bottom of the mangrove, mixed in with roots and detritus. It is also called the "Rasta Jelly" because three tentacles attach at each corner sticking out and giving them an upside-down Rasta look. Keep an eye out for them snorkeling at night in mangroves. **Beauty and danger scales: 8:4**

Gelatinous comments

I have been told many times that there are no box jellies on Bonaire, or very few. I study these amazing organisms under permit from the Bonaire and Dutch government. I have hosted numerous "Jellyfish Jamborees" for educational and research purposes. View our educational YouTube video "Science of the Sting". Report box jelly sightings, particularly *Tamoya ohboya* for research purposes.

William (Bud) Gillan is a science guy. He taught AP and Honors Biology and Ocean Ecology at the CIEE Bonaire Research Station. He is a collector and consultant to The Smithsonian Institute. His current research includes: box jellies and their stings, the impact of chemical sunscreens on coral reefs, and finding effective, natural insect repellents.

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Activities, Events & Meetings

Free public presentations
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations are held at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8pm. For now, STCB asks people to register by email (stcb@bonaireturtles.org) because of the covid regulations.

Register for: 48Hour Film Competition. Oct. 22-24,2021. You can sign up your team at: <https://www.48hourfilm.com/nl/bonaire/registernow>. To learn more about the 2019 competition, see The Reporter's online archives for 2019: Issues 19 to 23, <https://bonairereporter.com>

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.

Beach Tennis Bonaire can now be found at its new location, the Kaminda Djabou (direct left from Kaya Neerlandia --behind Budget Marine). It is open daily until 10 pm. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

Oct. Cruise Ships						
DAY & DATE:MM/DD		CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE	
Thursday	10-14	Celebrity Equinox	0800-2000	S.pier	2850	Celebrity
Tuesday	10-26	Celebrity Equinox	0700-1600	S.pier	2850	Celebrity
Wednesday	10-27	Emerald Princess	0700-1700	N.pier	3114	PCL
TCB tells us that the cruise ship schedule can change very quickly due to changing restrictions and circumstances. Therefore, the information above is subject to change.						

What's Happening

Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm
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.

September 3 to October 15	Artist Dillon Rannou; Atleast in Wonderland; Terramar Museum Tues - Friday 10am - 1pm and Friday 6pm - 9pm
Wednesday October 13	Downwind and Freestyle kitesurfing competitions continue on Atlantis Beach.
Thurs. to Sat. October 14-16	Regatta sailing competitions at Kas di Regatta
Wednesday October 20	Big Live Nature Quiz, Dutch Caribbean Free for kids 12 - 14 years. 10 - 11:30 am. Multi-lingual. Online registration: BIGLIVENATUREQUIZ.ORG See page
Saturday October 23	Dive Friends Quarterly Clean up Dive Te Amo Beach 9:30 am.
Wed. & Thurs. October 27-28	Waterpolo Tournament Parke Tului (See page 15) Wednesday & Thursday 2 to 6 pm
Fri. to Sun. October 29-31	Waterpolo Tournament The North Pier Friday & Saturday 8 am to 6 pm; Sunday 8 am to 12 noon
November 2, '21 to March 29, 2022	Online course from University of Wageningen 5 weeks 2-4 hours per week. Limited course materials for free. Full package including exam and certificate €165. https://www.wur.nl/en/show/Tourism-and-Climate-Change-1.htm

Direct flights to Bonaire

KLM from Amsterdam, the Netherlands	Current to Dec. 15, 2021 Daily flights	Dec. 15, 2021 to Jan. 14, 2022 Daily with 1 extra flight Mon. Wed. Fri.	Dec. 26, 2021 extra flight Sunday	
TUI from Amsterdam, the Netherlands	Current 4 weekly flights; Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat.			
Delta from Atlanta, Georgia, US	Current to Nov. 20, 2021 1 weekly Saturday flight	Nov. 24 to Dec. 15, 2021 2 weekly flights: Wed. & Sat.	Dec. 18, 2021 to Jan. 4, 2022 Daily flights except Tuesday	Jan. 4 to April 9, 2022 4 weekly flights: Mon. Wed Fri. Sat.
American from Miami, Florida, US	Current to Nov. 20, 2021 2 weekly flights: Wed. & Sat.	Nov.8. to Dec 15, 2021 - 3 weekly flights: Mon. Wed. Sat.	Dec 16, 2021 to Jan 3, 2022 Daily flights	
United from Houston, Texas & Newark, New Jersey, US	Beginning Nov. 6, 2021 Saturday flights from both Houston and Newark. Return flight on Sunday			

5th International Waterpolo Tournament 2021

[/bonairebarracudas](#)
[/bonairewaterpolotournament](#)

BONAIRE 27th - 31st OCTOBER

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Join DCNA's free Big Live Nature Quiz

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) invites students ages 12-14 who live on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten, and Sint Eustatius to participate in the second installment of the Big Live Nature Quiz for Kids! It's free, online, live, interactive and includes questions about Dutch Caribbean animals. This fun quiz is in English but questions will also have Dutch and Papiamentu subtitles.

The winning team will win a sailing/snorkel trip around their island. Second and third place teams will receive t-shirts and hats.

Several schools are participating throughout the Dutch Caribbean. Students may participate online from home or at school events. Contact DCNA today to learn how to host an event at your school!

Date and Time
The quiz will take place on Wednesday October 20th, from 10 am-11:30am AST.

Teams
Join alone or form a team with max 4 friends/family/colleagues.

Location
You can participate in two ways. Participants can play online from home with friends and family or you can participate in one of the many classrooms hosting the event!

Reserve your spot
Groups consisting of one to four members must pre-register at biglivenaturequiz.org to participate.

Requirements
It is not necessary to prepare or study for the quiz in advance. All you need to participate is an online registration (biglivenaturequiz.org), an internet connection, a computer, a phone to answer questions, and a good attitude.

If you form a team and join from home, you need to physically get together behind one computer. You need only one cell phone per team to send your team-answer.

If you join at your school you only need to register online (biglivenaturequiz.org), and bring a cell phone or smart device to submit answers.

Theme: Dutch Caribbean Animals
The quiz will have a total of 35 multiple choice trivia questions. The quiz will be in English but questions will also have Dutch and Papiamentu subtitles. There will be five categories: Marine Animals, Terrestrial Animals, Special Species, and People and Nature.



Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Poetry contest for persons with limitations

Life is hard enough as it is but when you suffer from limitations, life is harder than ever. And that is why MiVaBo invites every citizen on Bonaire with limitations to participate in their poetry contest. Poetry is one of the ways to express a person's feelings. Talking about your feelings can be intimidating and very scary but writing about them seems to be easier.

People without limitations mostly have no idea how difficult life can be for those who do, so poetry writing could be an interesting experience for both writers and readers. For people without limitations, reading about accessibility problems can be a real eye-opener. Most have absolutely no idea. Have you noticed the way sidewalks are filled with cars and flowerpots, the handicapped-toilet is occupied by those without limitations; and that non-handicapped people park in the designated parking spots, and so much more.

"This is my life, this colors my world"that is the

theme.

Do you also like to read and write poetry? Would you also like to participate in this competition?

It can be just a poem, a rhyme, a sing-song, a limerick, a sonnet, a haiku, a free verse (can rhyme or not), an acrostic, any form you like. But it has to be about you and about your life.

And it has to be written by you: a proud person who suffers from limitations: visual, with hearing problems, mental retardation, or you might be elderly with chronic disease.

Of course MiVaBo knows that not everyone can write poetry, but one can learn, one can be taught. That is why a few free workshops are offered.

Invitations have been sent to FKPD, FKBO (Zorg & Welzijn-groep), Villa Antonia and Kas di Kuido where the workshops also will be held. Should you want to participate in the contest and attend a workshop, you

may contact MiVaBo or the other organizations mentioned above.

And if you are not a member of the organizations mentioned above, but you do suffer from limitations, you are also very welcome to participate.

If you cannot write, you can ask a friend or a family-member to assist you.

You may send your poem to MiVaBo : mivabonaire@gmail.com

But you may also send your contribution to:

Ria Dokter, Park Bonaire Exclusief # 16, Playa Pabou. Please do so before November 15.

There is a jury of three very capable persons who will evaluate and pick the winner! The winner will be announced on December 3, the International day for persons with limitations.

Get your thinking caps on and start writing! We are very anxious to read all the results.

Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Bringing scuba diving to a new level (part 2)

Diving mindfully

Among the many amazing things about diving, one is that there is a type of dive for each type of diver. There are different types of dives for different life stages and also for different moods. Within the recreational realm, there are many kinds of dives. We already know countless specialties that illustrate this variety. Some people dive to take pictures, and while some look for tiny creatures, others love wide angle subjects. Different objectives make very different dives. Some like to dive in wrecks, others like the coral reef. Some dives are like taking a stroll in the woods, nice and relaxing. Other dives are more adventurous, involving rough entries and currents.

Sometimes diving is a fusion of social and contempla-

tive activity. The safety recommendation of the buddy system makes it a social activity. You want somebody to help you and check on you, while you do the same for your buddy. But once we are submerged, there are moments that we want to share and communicate with our buddy and moments that are just for ourselves. All the feelings and sensations involved in diving are a contemplative and personal voyage.

At this moment in my life, contemplative diving is one of my favorite types of dives. To prepare for such a dive I make sure my buddy and I are on the same page, looking for the same type of experience. Before we start diving, we agree on depth, bottom time, special signals and procedures.

Before the dive we do a nice stretching routine and a

short relaxation or visualization practice to tune us up before entering the water.

Once below the surface there is no other goal than being there enjoying full awareness. First focusing and enjoying the weightlessness, the temperature, the sound of the bubbles and the subtle changes introduced by tiny movements and lung volume through respiration. Breathing in and out to feel the changes in buoyancy, slightly rising or sinking, making a tiny kick and then gliding gently. Feeling thankful for being able to enjoy the underwater realm and acknowledging it's a privilege. And finally, just letting go of control, but still checking on your buddy.

There is no better place to practice relaxation techniques than in warm and calm waters, and Bonaire is the ideal place. You can take diving to the next level of awareness while practicing contemplative diving with your buddy.

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.



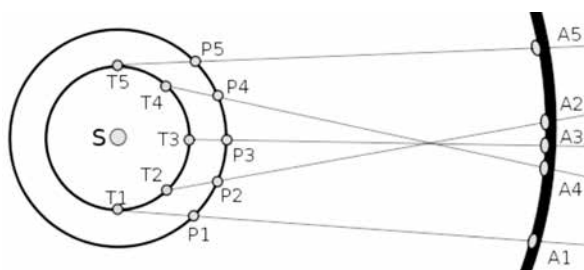
Bonaire's sky park

The end of Jupiter's retrograde

The giant gas planet, Jupiter has been shining for the last few months but it has been in retrograde. That ends the week of October 11 to 17.

Retrograde motion is an illusion. All planets in our system go the same direction around the sun. None actually change direction. But they appear to change direction because of their relative orbital speeds. Jupiter is slower, so it appears to retrograde for about 120 days a year.

Christopher Crockett of Earthsky.com explains that it's like passing a slower car on a road. "You can test it for yourself, the next time you pass a car on the highway. As you approach a slower car, it's clearly moving in the same direction you are. As you pull alongside and pass it, however, from your vantage point the car appears to move backwards for just a moment. Then, as you pull ahead of it, the car appears to resume its forward motion." (See Crockett's article at: <https://earthsky.org/space/what-is-retrograde-motion/>)



How retrograde motion works when Earth (T) passes an outer planet (P) as they both orbit the sun (S). The changing viewing angle from Earth makes the projection of the planet against the celestial sphere (A) move backwards (A2-A4) as we pass the slower planet, Credit: Wikipedia user Rursus

From timeanddate.com

October 20/21. October's second meteor shower. Orionids are active every year in October, usually peaking around October 20/21. At its peak, up to 20 meteors are visible every hour. The Orionid meteor shower is created by Comet Halley. Orionids are named after Orion, because the meteors seem to emerge or radiate from the same area in the sky as the constellation.

To get more viewing details for Kralendijk or any oth-

er location check <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/orionid.html>

Orionids meteor shower for Kralendijk (Night between October 20 and October 21)		
Time	Azimuth/Direction	Altitude
Wed 11:00 pm	75°↗	4.6°
Thu 12:00 midnight	77°↗	18.8°
Thu 1:00 am	79°→	33.1°
Thu 2:00 am	80°→	47.5°
Thu 3:00 am	80°→	62.0°
Thu 4:00 am	74°↗	76.3°
Thu 5:00 am	339°↖	86.3°
Thu 6:00 am	284°↖	73.8°

Oct 25: Mercury at Greatest Elongation West. You might try to spot Mercury as the planet appears at its farthest distance from the Sun in the morning sky.

Oct 29: Venus at Greatest Elongation East. Venus shines brightly as the "evening star," appearing at its farthest distance from the Sun.

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PARROTS AND PEOPLE



Glenn

Dear cat lovers,

My name is Glenn. I'm an older cat currently living at the Shelter. I came here when I was a little boy of 4 weeks old and now I've grown into a handsome man of almost 3 years. That's right. I have been at the Shelter almost my whole life...and now it's time to go home! A lot of people want to take home a little kitten, which of course is good, but we older cats also

Pets of the Week

need a fur-ever home too.

Did you know that older cats need less supervision and are better able to occupy themselves. We are much mellower about playtime and exercise. As an added bonus, we are more likely to curl up with you when you go to bed or are relaxing on the couch after a long day. Our personalities are already developed so you know exactly what kind of cat you will have. You'll know if we get along with other cats, dogs and/or children. Of course I'm neutered, vaccinated and I'm very sweet and I am, as they say, a calm and reliable cat! If you want to meet me I'm waiting for you at the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. You can reach my caretakers at 717-4989 or 701-4989 and also on WhatsApp and Facebook messenger, or send an email to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Story: Monique Degenaar; Photo: Shelter Files

Hello all.

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Indiana Jones, but you can call me Indie. I'm a healthy boy about 2 years old. I got my name because I was on an adventure before they caught me and brought me to the Shelter. I was walking in the mundi for quite a while and was covered in wounds. They said they were burn marks, but I don't remember what it was. I do remember the infected mouth that I had. I was on medication for a long time for that, and after 1 week I finally could drink water normally again. Now I have a very beautiful smile, all the ladies love it!

I'm a real huggy bear that loves your attention. I am good with other dogs, male or female, young or old...I don't care, I like them all!, I will be a great companion. Are you my new best friend? Then come and meet me at the shelter and maybe we can both go on an adventure!!



Indiana Jones

I'm waiting for you at the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagoen 26A, you can reach my care takers on 7174989 or 7014989 also available on whatsapp and facebook messenger, or send an email on animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Shelter News

WANTED: MURAL ARTIST

Animal Shelter Bonaire is looking for an artist to create a very special space to honor a Bonaire legend. All necessary supplies and materials will be provided at no cost to the artist. A small stipend for the work is also available. The Shelter has photos and written materials to assist the artist in creating the design. Portions of the mural will include realistic images from photos. If you are interested, please email the Shelter at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com and if possible a sample photo of your work. Dimensions and detailed information will be provided to interested parties.



Bonaire's Fifth International Waterpolo Tournament welcomes Olympic referee

The 5th Bonaire International Water Polo Tournament will take place from October 27-31, 2021!

Twelve senior teams participate in this unique tournament that takes place in our beautiful Caribbean Sea. There are seven teams in the Men's category and five teams in the Women's/Mixed category, including our own men's and women's team. We have participants coming from Curacao, Aruba and the Netherlands. On October 27 and 28, the game will be played at Parke Tului and from October 29-31 the North Pier will be the battleground. (See page 12 for times.)

The tournament's head referee is Mr. Michael Goldenberg from the US. Mr. Goldenberg is a highly respected USA Water Polo Referee and has a very impressive track record. He officiated during the Tokyo Olympics in the men's gold medal game between Greece and Serbia. Bonaire Barracudas and Michael Goldenberg developed a good relationship beginning in February 2020 when our youth U14 participated in the 18th South Florida International Water Polo Tournament in Florida.

For more information follow the Barracuda on Facebook and Instagram.



TCB plans sports events for 2022

In a speech on World Tourism Day by Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) CEO Miles Mercera, said that Bonaire will be entering into a new focus on sports. The plan is to bring 12 major sporting events in 2022, one per month.

Miles said, "Sports are a part of our culture. They [the people] are the active citizens, the ones working hard in fishing, boating and at the local stadiums. Sports brings people together and can help us move forward."

Although not for this year, the new initiative to enlarge sports will also bring in people who will organize others making it more of a Bonaire experience.

Plans include a marathon, swimming, windsurfing, soccer for both kids and

adults and baseball both regional and international. They hope to improve the events currently held. According to Miles, they want the boutique type events that are low volume but higher in quality.

The idea is to position Bonaire as a sport destination to bring people from abroad as a part of Bonaire's branding.

TCB is not organizing the events but looking for collaborators who want to bring the Bonaire experience to others.

They are even considering reviving the popular Bonaire Dive Festival for a week or even a month.

Miles said, "It has to be a part of the plan." *Julie Morgan*

Covid-19 round-up, continued from page 2

A third shot (not a booster) is coming for people with severe immune system disorders. Many have not built up sufficient immunity against coronavirus after receiving two vaccine doses. The third dose will be an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna). Patients will be able to get this extra dose at a GGD vaccination center. *For more information see: <https://www.rivm.nl/en/covid-19-vaccination/vaccines/immunocompromised-patients>*

Booster shots are not yet necessary for the general public, including the elderly. Health authorities have determined that as time passes the vaccines are maintaining their effectiveness, even among the people who were first to be vaccinated. Across all age groups, protection against hospitalization has remained above 91%, and against ICU admission 95%-99%.

People going on holiday from the Netherlands no longer get free testing from the government. Travel to Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao is now more expensive for them, especially given the PCR test obligation. A PCR test costs between 70 and

120 euros per person. Within Europe, vaccinated people can travel without a test. Tests for domestic use remain free in the Netherlands.

West-Jet, Canada's second largest airline, has delayed resumption of service between Toronto and Bonaire for another year, much to the regret of travelers, especially those from Canada. A spokesperson said that restrictive measures by the Canadian Government for travel abroad by Canadians was the biggest factor in its decision. Bonaire is a popular destination for Canadians during the cold winter months.

Curaçao is adopting digital proof of vaccination. For the time being, only fully vaccinated people are eligible to apply for a digital vaccination certificate, or QR code, to put in their cell phone. They can use that code to check in for flights using the code. Eventually they will be able to use it anywhere they need to affirm their vaccination status, including, say, cultural and sporting events where attendance is controlled. People who do not have a smartphone will be able to carry a printed version of their QR code. *DMR (Koninkrijk.nu, BESReporter, Bonaire.nu)*

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A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

A lazy garden day

With this heat and hot sun it's hard to work during the day in the garden. Like most gardeners do, I start about 6 o'clock

in the morning, watering the plants, raking dead leaves, planting new stuff and then I make another round after 5 pm. But there are days that I take a "lazy garden day".

What about you? Do you go and sit in your garden with a cup of tea or coffee and look around you? You will discover so many things you did not notice before: colors, new plants, birds. You might get a different way of looking at the garden and some new, fresh ideas. Just enjoy the breeze in your garden, the early sunrise, the singing birds or... the sound of silence.

The volunteers

Many plants might show up in your garden due to the seeds carried by running rainwater and birds that poop in your yard. If you don't want those plants, then weed them out.

Three trees that might appear are: the neem tree which is not really one you want in your garden or growing close to your house; the Wayaca a nice little local tree that gives a lot of shade and the morenga tree, a huge, healthy tree. They crop up everywhere as young plants because the rain water spreads the seeds easily and suddenly you have a nice green garden that came up by itself.

Lazy roots

Because of the drought these days, plant leaves often look lifeless. We need to water more than usual with this heat, but too much can make plant roots lazy. When roots get too much water they don't need to work hard and they don't store water to survive. When the roots have just a little bit of water, they grow longer and make more roots to find and store the water that makes the

plant stronger. It's a kind of balancing act to keep the plants alive with just enough water. That is why I often water with a can. It takes more time, but it's better for my plants and I don't waste water.

Paint buckets

I have paint buckets everywhere in my garden. They are so handy for garden things, like storing different types of soil components such as black dirt, red dirt, manure, charcoal, rotten leaves, compost, rainwater and dirt for the garbage. When the cans are old and have holes in the bottom, I plant big plants like palm trees in them. They are perfect when both ends of the buckets are open to put over young plants to protect the plants against lizards. They also protect young plants against the sun and dry wind.

You need some buckets? Go ask at Selibon. They have a lot of paint buckets there. And old ones are as good as new ones to recycle for different purposes in your garden.

Making dirt

Talking about buckets, some people ask me how to know if the black dirt that Alfie sells will work on their plants. Alfie said you can buy one bucket of his dirt and try it out first to see if it works. If you are satisfied you can order up to the three cubic meters that fills his delivery truck.

He mixes his dirt with top soil from where goats hang out under the trees, fine wood dust, compost, rotten leaves, goat manure and red dirt. Locals tell me that the small leaves from the wayaca, watapana and palu kwida trees are very healthy as compost for plants. The locals often take dirt from under these trees to add to their plants. I read that small leaves are very good to add to plants because they are composted very fast and are high in nutrients.



Enjoying my peaceful, beautiful garden early in the morning.

So don't throw away the leaves of your wayaca, your tamarind trees, and so on, because they have a lot of goodies for your plants. And oh, yes, the leaves and trunk of banana trees are very good for your soil because they are full of liquid which rots quickly in the soil and holds water longer. I chop the trunk in small pieces and spread it over the beds and then add black dirt. So it gets rotten there and plants grow very healthy and nice from the nutrients and liquid of the banana trunk and leaves. Is that enough new ideas? Just try them now, you will not be disappointed.



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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