

FREE

BONAIRE The REPORTER

Jan. 5, 2021 - Jan. 19, 2022, Year 29, Issue 1



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Supporting Bonaire's Nature in 2021



Animal Shelter Bonaire

ADOPTIONS: Loving homes were found for 184 shelter residents in 2021. Those lucky dogs and cats found their fur-ever homes, but the Shelter still has 148 healthy and loving animals that need one.

STERILIZATIONS: In 2021, through the Shelter's Free Sterilization Program, 640 pet owners had their dog or cat sterilized! This number does not include all the pet guardians that sterilized their animals on their own. The effect of the last three years record sterilizations is reflected in the numbers of unwanted animals being brought to the Shelter. Since 2019, the Shelter has taken in fewer animals than in years before. In 2021, 343 cats and dogs were surrendered or abandoned to the Shelter. even less than in 2020.

Continuing education about the Shelter's free sterilization program, increasing the numbers of sterilizations and obtaining financial support for the program are critical to that goal. We need your help! Contributions can be made to: Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire), Swift code : MCBKBQBN, Account name: Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire, Account Number: 10237800.



Bonaire Donkey Protection League Foundation continues to work to preserve Bonaire's donkeys and keep them wild. They have submitted a proposal to the government to relocate the donkeys from the roads and town to safe areas far in the back country in an amount that is not harmful but helpful to the land. The population would be monitored and controlled if needed by humane sterilization of the females in a three year plan. The beauty of this it will not destroy our special Nubian breed. To support Bonaire's historic donkeys contact: bdplf@hotmail.com or call +599-785-2205.



In 2021, Clean Coast Bonaire volunteer citizen scientists collected a total of 35,518 items of marine litter. That brings our overall total to 116,171 since 2018. Over 85% of the items collected were plastic. Unfortunately, there has been a 33.5% increase from last year.

Solutions to reduce beach litter in

2022: Support Bonaire's single use plastic ban; Reduce, reuse and recycle; Be a conscious consumer by choosing plastic free products.

Volunteers are needed for our monthly surveys. They are held on the second Sunday of every month. The schedule can be found in the Reporter on page ?? . Or visit www.cleancoastbonaire.org and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cleancoastbonaire/>



Many of our efforts in 2021 focused on collaborating with the community to educate and promote conservation efforts. Some examples include a workshop on farming practices that support reforestation and conservation; collaborations with NOBO Bonaire and other local businesses to help sell native trees and partnering with Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) to create a video and promote Echo's conservation efforts. We created and ran educational programs for school children to teach them a love for nature and contribute to conservation for the Lora parrot and local biodiversity.

We are excited to report that there is an increase in the Lora population in 2021

over previous years. The next roost count is January 29.

For more information about Echo read *Parrots and People* on page 6.



In 2021 the Mangrove Maniacs team comprised of a core group of 20 volunteers, staff and scientists opened over 200 meters of new mangrove channels. Maintaining a network of almost 5 km they improved the conditions in 16 ha of mangroves.

New nurseries were set up where almost 2000 propagules were raised to small saplings. About half were planted near Lac and along the southwest coast. To combat erosion 600 buttonwood were planted in a fenced off area. This goes hand in hand with monitoring and research. The work was made possible through funding and in kind support of STINAPA, Ministry of LNV, BEST2.0+, CAR-SPAW, Cargill and private donations. Lending a hand were many visitors, kids, the military, Greenpeace and

Supporting nature, continued on page 7

Rutte's new cabinet brings more Caribbean knowledge

Mark Rutte has announced that the new cabinet (his fourth) must be ready to go to work as scheduled on Monday, January 10. The new Dutch cabinet, with 20 ministries, is the largest ever. Rutte's party, the VVD, has eight ministries, D66 six, the CDA four, and the ChristenUnie two. Five of the new cabinet members have first-hand Caribbean experience.

Alexandra Carla van Huffelen (D66) is replacing Raymond Knops (CDA) as State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Following the resignation of the Rutte cabinet in January, 2021, Van Huffelen was reappointed State Secretary of Finance in the interim government.



The Rutte cabinet resigned over the scandal regarding longstanding onerous enforcement by the Tax and Customs Administration of regulations governing childcare benefits. The victimized parents included a disproportionate number of families originating in the Caribbean. The government responded with immediate measures to right the wrongs that had been done. As interim State Secretary for Finance, Van Huffelen led that proactive effort.

Photo: fietsersbond.nl

The new State Secretary for Taxation, Marnix van Rij (CDA), was previously an advisor to the Executive Council of Bonaire and government commissioner on St. Eustatius.

The new State Secretary for Culture and Media, Gunay Uslu (D66), was Director of Hotel Development & Design for the Corendon Mangrove Beach Resort on Curaçao. She is the sister of Corendon founder Atilay Uslu. She has distinguished herself as an academic and has also served in many leadership roles in business and government.

Franc Weerwind (D66), the new Minister for Legal Protection, has a Surinamese background. He is chairman of the National Institute of Dutch Slavery History and Heritage.

State Secretary of Finance Aukje de Vries (VVD), paid a working visit to Bonaire in September as a member of the House of Representatives Committee for Kingdom Relations. She participated in the Interparliamentary Kingdom Consultation and other activities.

Outgoing State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, Raymond Knops, will resume his role as a member of parliament. When the VVD filled its eight ministries in the coalition government, no cabinet position was available for him. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*

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The Reporter Online also gives you Covid-19 breaking news and more

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How to Find Us

Read us online: <https://bonairereporter.com>
 ●: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>
 Available in 50 locations
 Printed every two weeks
 Next edition: January 19, 2022
 Contributor's Deadline January 19, 2022
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Covid-19 round-up

A new statistical category is being used in covid reporting: protection from hospitalization. The number of people infected is multiplying rapidly because the omicron variant is so virulent. The good news, however, is that most victims are experiencing relatively mild symptoms. Current statistics suggest that people who are triple vaccinated are only 52% protected from the omicron infection. On the other hand, they are 82% protected from hospitalization.

On January 4, 2022, Bonaire had 359 active cases of Covid-19. Of the 236 test results received, 133 were positive. Visitors to Bonaire account for 40 of the new cases. Four covid-19 cases are in the hospital. The number of positive infections versus the number of tests is not accurate as the commercial testing labs are not submitting the number of people tested but only those who are positive.

Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna announced that the omicron variant of the coronavirus has reached Bonaire. He has declared new security measures for the remainder of January. Of every 10 people who became infected in late January, five to six were infected with the omicron variant, and the ratio is probably higher now. The Public Health Department will extend injection hours for people who have not yet had the booster jab, the first or the second corona jab.

Rijna also declared new safety restrictions for the remainder of January.

All catering establishments, including casinos, must close midnight, with only four people per table and they must be assigned a fixed place.

A maximum of 10 people, belonging to no more than two households, are allowed to attend private gatherings. People must enter stores alone, except for single parents or citizens with a physical disability who need help when doing their shopping. Everyone above age 13 must wear a mask in both essential and non-essential stores.

Outdoor events are allowed with a maximum of 50 people. The audience is not allowed to sing or dance and people must have fixed seats.

No more than 50 people may attend funerals or weddings, and they must keep a distance of 1.5 meters. All other activities

related to funerals or weddings are considered private gatherings and are limited to no more than 10 adults from two households.

No spectators are allowed at indoor sports activities or events. No more than 50% of the total capacity of the venue may be present outside. Everyone must keep a distance of 1.5 meters.

Sports practice is still allowed, preferably outside. Gyms can remain open as long as all attendees keep 1.5 meters away. Gyms should keep their rooms well ventilated. Discos and sex establishments are closed.

Some established measures will continue. Employers are encouraged to let their staff work from home if possible. At day care for the elderly, everyone must adhere to the basic rules. All practitioners of contact professions such as hairdressers, masseurs and physiotherapists must wear a face mask at work. All churches are strongly asked to exclude singing from mass or service and to follow the basic rules.

The travel restrictions are being reviewed and changes may be announced.

The U.S. CDC is warning people to avoid all cruise ship travel, regardless of vaccination status, amid dozens of reported covid-19 outbreaks. On cruise ships the virus spreads easily because people are in close quarters. The CFC says 88 vessels are now either under investigation or observation. The week before Christmas Bonaire turned away a cruise ship that reportedly had a corona outbreak aboard.

The number of corona infections more than quadrupled in the Caribbean islands of the Kingdom during Christmas. The week before Christmas the CAS and BES islands had 700 corona cases. The day after Christmas they had nearly 3,000. The increase was particularly significant on Curaçao and Aruba. Curaçao went from more than 200 cases to just over 1500 in the week; Aruba from almost 300 cases to 1100.

The government of Curaçao announced there will be no lockdown but imposes a curfew at 1 am and some restaurant restrictions. Prime Minister Gilmar Pisas said the island desperately needs income from tourism. He says Curaçao has to provide its own revenues because the Netherlands won't give them liquidity support. (*Caribbean Network*) Pisas did ask the Nether-

Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of JANUARY 4, 2022

359 active	4 hospitalized
3622 total	23 deceased
85.8% 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/>

Covid-19 round-up, continued on page 13

Crossfit Flamingo is more than exercise

January 2022 is here and you've made a resolution to get fit and eat a more healthy diet and for once you've decided to follow through and make it work. So what's it going to be? Bonaire has several types of indoor gym options or you could just go outside in our fabulous nature and walk, run, bike, swim, wind-surf or dive.

One option is really a mix of the two. Crossfit Flamingo features Crossfit classes and a full range of exercise equipment in an open-air gym with a great ocean view.

It's all there to help you keep your fitness resolution by self training or challenge yourself with the hi-intensity strength conditioning Crossfit program.

The Crossfit movement was introduced to Bonaire by the original owner, Ronnie Heijman, in Sept. 2017 when he opened Crossfit Flamingo. He was determined to get Bonaire fit by offering fitness at a reasonable price.

Today, the gym is owned by Damien de Wit, Crossfit coach and art and culture graduate from the Netherlands. Damien came to the island a year ago to work as a coach for three months that turned into a year.

Damien said, "I didn't know Bonaire at all and had no expectations except it was a tropical island. I didn't expect there to be so many Dutch... it made me feel like I was home a little quicker."

When then owner Ronnie Soechit made him an offer to buy the business last summer he couldn't turn it down.

"I had a lot of ideas when I was setting up the gym for Ronnie... This was a golden opportunity I couldn't let go of," said Damien.

Since taking over, the number of Crossfit participants has gone from 25 to 50 in the last three to four months even with the impact of covid.

Damien said, "In my mind, Crossfit is a unique form of fitness that is not all about getting fit... if you have no heart for it, then it doesn't work. It's about community, friends coming together, to motivate each other and create a better version of themselves. If you only focus on the fitness side then you are only scratching the surface."

A typical Crossfit workout is an hour and includes a briefing and WOD (workout of the day).

1-Interval warmup, run for three minutes in low to high intensity.

Crossfit Flamingo to page 6

Top photo: Crossfit athletes put through the WOD (Workout of the Day) by owner and coach Damien de Wit.

Bottom photo: The open air gym with a view has an array of exercise machines and equipment.



FOR SALE Kaminda Lac Vista Royal Village Bonaire



- Location : Nikiboko
- Lot size : Varies from 526 m2 to 1628 m2
- Zoning : Woongebied II

- 4 model homes to choose from
- Own design possible, building regulations apply
- Finance options available



Lot prices start at **\$60,490 US Dollar**

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<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

Jan. 1. A robbery took place on Kaya Comanche at about 5 pm where, among other things, the victim's car was taken. After a short investigation, a man, 20, was detained and the car was recovered.

Dec. 27. A blue water pump was stolen from the yard of a house in Tra'i Montana. Thieves destroyed the fence to take the water pump.

Dec. 23. Between 3:45 and 5 pm thieves broke into a container on the site of the house in Seru Grandi and stole tools including: three Makita green drills, a Makita 'drainer,' a Makita sawing machine and a Makita sander.

Arrested/held in custody.

Jan. 2. At about 5 pm, the police received a report about a fight with a baseball bat at a house on Kaya Kalipso. A man, aged 20, and a young man of 15 were arrested on the spot.

Jan. 1. The police received a report about a fight at a bar on Kaya Korona. When the patrol arrived, only one man who was involved in the brawl was present. When asked to show his ID, he refused. Because he also harassed the bar owner, he was arrested for public intoxication and for violation of the Identification Act.

Jan. 1. At about 8:15 pm a man, 37, was arrested at Kaya Seminole for public intoxication. He was found behind the wheel consuming alcohol. When he was approached, he began to be difficult to the officers and was arrested. He was also given an 8-hour driving ban.

Jan. 1. In the late afternoon hours, a man, 38, in Rincon was held for making death threats. The suspect had threatened to kill two people, one of whom is a child.

Jan. 1. In the early afternoon a man, 24, was arrested at Kaya Nikiboko South for assault.

Jan. 1. At about 3 am a short chase took place from Hanchi Amboina after the driver of a car refused to stop for a check. On Kaya Flor de Cuba, the car was blocked and the driver eventually stopped. The passenger got out and was arrested for his aggressive behaviour. He also strongly resisted arrest. The man, 18, was arrested for failing to comply with a police demand and for resisting with threats. The driver, 18, was arrested for failing to comply with police demands.

Dec. 28. A man, 33, was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES and the Compulsory Identification Act. A patrol drove past a group of people on Kaya Mgr. Nieuwindt and noticed a marijuana smell. A bag of suspected cannabis was found on the suspect who could also not show any identification.

Dec. 28. Two house searches were carried out. At a house on Kaya Veronica, a man, 36, was arrested on suspicion of theft. At a house on Kaya Industria Pariba, a man, 42, was arrested on suspicion of a violation of the Opium Act BES and the Weapons Act BES.

Dec. 28. A woman, 20, was arrested on Kaya Kòrsou for violent theft. She was involved in the robbery that took place on July 25 this year at Te Amo Beach in which three people were robbed of their mobile phones at the threat of a machete and a knife. Investigation into the case continues.

Dec. 27. In the early morning hours a house on Kaya Grandi was searched. A man, 40, was arrested for assault.

Dec. 24. At about 2:30 am a car traveling in a prohibited direction was ordered to stop. The driver continued to drive, after which the police gave chase. When the suspect stopped, he tried to flee on foot. The police fired a few warning shots, after which the man, 38, finally stopped. Prohibited substances were found in his possession and he was arrested for violation of the Opium Act BES.

Dec. 24. During the night hours, a man, 53, was arrested for assault on the Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana. The

suspect was involved in an earlier collision and assaulted the driver of the other party in front of the police.

Dec. 24. After a fever (street racing) party a woman, 32, was arrested on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund for failing to comply with a police demand and for violently resisting an officer on duty. The moped has been seized.

Dec. 23. Late at night, a woman, 17, was detained on Kaya Papa Cornes. A car was stopped for inspection. One of the occupants had a joint in his hands, which led to an inspection under the Opium Act BES. The young woman behaved suspiciously and was further checked. She was found to be in possession of drug processing items. She resisted vehemently an arrest. She was arrested for violating the Opium Act BES, for resisting an official in office and for failing to comply with a police claim.

Dec. 21. At about 11:15 pm, a man, 20, was arrested for violation of the Opium Act BES. The suspect was involved in a collision on Kaya Dr. Girigorio Hernandez. He was asked for his papers but could not show a driver's license, insurance certificate or ID. A quantity of marijuana-like herb was found in his bag which was confiscated.

Traffic accidents/violations

Jan. 2. In the morning hours on Kaya Gilberto F. Croes a scooter driver stated that she was driving behind a car when the car suddenly turned left, causing her to brake abruptly and fall. A friend who is a nurse picked her up to take her to the hospital.

Jan. 2. At around 10:20 pm a car ended up off the road at the intersection of Kaya Industria and Kaya Maximiliana Rosario. The driver stated that he did not realize that he had come to an intersection and drove straight into the mondi. He was arrested for driving under the influence. The man, 27, and his passenger were both unharmed.

Dec. 27. At approximately 9 pm a car and a scooter collided at the intersection of Kaya Grandi and Kaya Aruba. The driver of the car stated that he wanted to turn left and did not see the oncoming scooter. The scooter collided with the passenger side of the car. The scooter driver was taken to hospital by ambulance. The fire brigade also came because there was petrol on the road surface.

Dec. 27. Around 1 am, a pick-up was stopped for inspection on Kaya Korona. The driver, 52, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Dec. 26. During a nighttime chase, a police car collided head-on with the suspect's car after the suspect ignored the stop sign of another patrol. The patrol who went to assist the first patrol collided with the suspicious car on Kaya Tapajos. The driver of the car, 26, was detained.

Dec. 26. About 5:30 am, a man, 29, was arrested at Kaya Internashonal for drunk-driving, insulting an official in office and for resisting during detention. The police were following up a report about a car that was swinging on the road.

Dec. 25. A fatal collision took place on the Kaminda Lagun around 6:45 am. The driver of a car heading towards Playa from Lagun lost control in a bend and crashed into a tree. When the ambulance arrived, the driver gave no sign of life. The lady with initials T.D.J.F was born on December 21, 2000 in the Netherlands.

Dec. 24. On Kaya Piedra Presioso around 11:30 pm the driver tried to avoid goats and lost control, causing the car to roll over. The driver was uninjured and climbed out of the car himself.

Dec. 24. A collision with a moped took place on Kaya Industria, around 1 am. The passenger of the moped was taken to hospital by ambulance. The fire service was called in because oil had spilled onto the road surface. The cause of the collision is unknown.

Dec. 23. At about 4 pm a scooter and a car collided on E.E.G. Bulevar. The scooter driver was taken to hospital

by ambulance.

Dec. 23. In the afternoon two cars collided at the T-junction of Kaya Pos di Amor and Kaya Nikiboko North. The drivers of both cars were treated at the scene by paramedics.

Dec. 21. Golf cart ends up in mondi. Around 11:45 am, a car and a golf cart collided on Kaminda Sabana Piedra Krus, near Boka Onima. A car traveling from Rincon towards Playa hit a golf cart in front of him on the left as it was about to make an abrupt left turn. As a result, the golf cart ended up in the mondi and the driver fell out of the golf cart. He suffered leg injuries and was treated on the spot by paramedics.

Fire

Jan. 1. The police station received a report about a fire in the garden of a house on Kaya Am-sterdam at around 5:20 pm. In the garden, an excavator was close to the fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire. No one was injured. The cause of the fire is not yet known.

Jan. 1. The police station received several reports of fire during the night. In Kaya Grandi, boxes in a store were on fire which spread to the front door of the store. When the patrol arrived, the shop owners had extinguished the fire themselves. In a kunuku near Bario Mexico, a large piece of mondi was on fire. At the intersection of Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana and the Kaya Viol, a large piece of mondi was on fire. The fire brigade arrived on the scene and quickly brought the fire under control. On the Kaya Pilon, a fire was detected in a house. When the fire brigade arrived, the fire was not too bad and was extinguished immediately. No one was injured. On the Kaya Caribe, fireworks accidentally set off inside the house set fire to the curtains. The fire brigade arrived on the spot and extinguished the fire. There were no injuries.

Dec. 26. In the morning the police station received a report about a fire on Kaminda Sorobon. The fire brigade extinguished large piece of mondi that was on fire. There were no injuries.

Public order

Jan. 1. The police station received a report about a fight in the Central Region around 4 am. When the patrol arrived at the location, a 'bombshell' was thrown at the police car and went off under the car. In addition, more fireworks were set off. The officers felt seriously threatened and fired a few warning shots. The ambulance arrived for a person who had been injured in the fight that had taken place before the police arrived. Investigation into the case is underway.

Dec. 27. After midnight, an assault took place in the Center area. A man who approached some people about playing loud music in front of his home was beaten up by a group of men. The man suffered injuries to his head, face and neck.

Dec. 25/26. An entertainment venue in the Center area was closed by the police for violating the measures in force in connection with Covid.

Police were informed that an artist would be performing within the venue. The owner was warned earlier in the evening about the measures in force in connection with Covid which are:

1. No more than 100 people may be present at events in an indoor area;
2. No dancing or singing is allowed at an event;
3. The distance standard of 1.5 meters must be used.

A little later it turned out that there was singing and dancing and the distance standard of 1.5 meters was not used. There were also more than 200 people who had paid for the performance. The location was immediately closed and the owner received a police report.

The night before, a venue was still letting people in around 12:40 am, music was still being played and drinks were being sold. The facility was closed. About 55 people were present who came out through the front and rear entrances. The owner received an official report for violating the applicable measure regarding the closing time of midnight.

Letters & Opinions

DELTA ACADEMY expands its classes

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.

Proof of vaccination at restaurants.

Dear Editor:

The recent mask mandate on Bonaire, while long overdue, is a necessary and welcome protection when shopping inside stores. However this mandate begs the question of why indoor restaurants, which obviously cannot require people to wear masks, are not required by the government to continue protecting us by requiring diners to show proof of vaccination.

It seems counter-intuitive to be protected in stores by wearing masks yet to be totally exposed to the virus in crowded indoor restaurants. Most in-

door restaurants aren't large enough to keep tables a safe distance apart which multiplies the opportunity for the virus to spread. Countries around the world are requiring vaccination proof to enter so, considering the fact that the CDC in the US has placed Bonaire on its highest Level 4 Do Not Travel list, it should be the government's responsibility to further protect us in this way.

To protect our citizens and visitors to the best of our ability the government should surround us with a circle of safety. Mandated masks makes half a circle. Please Lt. Governor Rijna complete the circle by mandating proof of vaccination to eat indoors at restaurants.

Dabney Lassiter

Chamber of Commerce fee structure updated



The annual fee paid by an organization will now be determined by its size and type. The Chamber must keep the information in the Business Registry current. Small companies like sole proprietorships require little updating, while the Chamber has to invest far more time and effort to maintain the registration of large NVs and BVs.

The annual fee paid by the smallest businesses will now be \$80 (down from \$89), while the fee paid by largest businesses will be: \$400 (down from \$600). The fee for sole proprietorships, associations, foundations, and partnerships will be \$160. Limited partnerships, coops, mutual insurance associations, and small NVs and BVs will pay \$240.

Fees for all other products and services provided by the Chamber have also been adjusted and made more transparent: access to documents that have been filed, copies of online documents and forms, extracts, business listings, and legalization of signatures. *DMR*

The Chamber of Commerce says that during the corona pandemic its duties expanded. It no longer just maintains the Business Register. It now supplies information and advice to the Minister of Economic and Climate Affairs that helps shape economic policy, and it provides advice and a support desk to island entrepreneurs. The Chamber says the new fees that went into effect on January 1 will allow it to execute its tasks "more efficiently and effectively, in a way that fits in with the current spirit of the times," and without needing subsidies from the Public Entity of Bonaire.

Legislation recently approved by the Dutch Parliament updates the Chamber's fee schedule for the first time in 10 years.

Knops threatens to pull plug on CAS Islands again

Liquidity support to help the economies of Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten weather the corona pandemic may be suspended again. According to outgoing State Secretary Raymond Knops, those governments have not yet fully confirmed their approval of the Kingdom Act or reported on the steps they are taking to comply with it, even a year and a half after saying they agreed with its provisions.

The Kingdom Act for the Caribbean Body for Reform and Development specifies financial and administrative reforms the CAS Islands must implement in order to qualify for continuing financial support from the Netherlands. Knops said that because of foot dragging in the CAS Islands, it remains unclear

"whether and how the countries can fruitfully enter into the intended cooperation for six years, with due observance of the agreements made."

As an example he cited an action of Aruba. The Netherlands resumed liquidity support for Aruba when the island reduced government salaries by 12.5%. Subsequently Aruba has requested the reduction be phased out in 2022. Knops emphasized that the reforms the parties have agreed to are intended to be permanent. The goal is to strengthen the financial, economic, institutional and social resilience of the CAS countries so they can deal with external shocks democratically and independently. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties)*



Delta Academy, a division of Delta Security and Hospitality, is expanding its curriculum to include language courses. Beginning February 1, the classes are being taught in collaboration with the government of the Netherlands

Delta Academy coordinator Bryan Leidel said, "The idea of the classes is to open up new opportunities for people in the job market."

For now, the three month courses are offered in English, Dutch and Papiamentu, but more languages will be offered in the future. Classes are beginner level but in time students can move forward to more advanced conversation level courses. Each class includes course materials and books. Class size is limited from eight to 10 students.

In addition to languages, the academy teaches one day classes in First Aid, EFR (Emergency First Response), primary (CPR), Care for Children and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator).

Weekly courses are offered in security classes teaching safety, prevention and how to de-escalate a bad situation. An Emergency Response Service course includes first aid, evacuation and fire prevention.

Delta Academy instructs students at MBO in specialized security classes and provides tutoring for the students in a variety of subjects.

Leidel said, "We think the Academy has a lot of potential. The main difference is we can offer classes from beginning to advanced."

Delta Academy has six instructors for in person and online training. The Academy security training is a requirement for all Delta guards personnel to ensure the finest in security.

Delta Academy began in March 2020 with online classes. Today some classes are still online allowing students to learn anywhere and anytime. The classes are also available to students on neighboring islands. There is even a Delta Academy in Curaçao. In Bonaire courses are taught at the new training facility at Kaya Gob Debrot 91, Unit 4A open Monday – Friday from 8 am to 5 pm with varying class times.

To sign up or for more information email: renate@deltasecurityboniare.com or call +599-701-3632 (also WhatsApp).

Julie Morgan



CRUISE SHIP RATING

Norwegian Getaway, a 326 m cruise ship sailed in to Bonaire on New Year's Eve carrying 3,084 passengers and crew with a total capacity for 5,609. The cruise line has installed advanced sewage treatment systems on all its ships giving it a "C" in that department but then receives an "F" for air pollution reduction and "F" for air pollution reduction due to its lack of shore side power connections. Overall grade from Friends of the Earth for this ship is "D-".

The ship also came into Bonaire with a CDC 'yellow' status meaning restricted voyages. Yellow means reported cases meet the CDC's threshold for investigation. The vast majority of ships are currently categorized as yellow.

According to CDC's website: "When a cruise ship notifies CDC of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 on board, CDC determines whether an investigation is needed. The threshold for investigation ... was developed based on several factors, including the need for transparency while acknowledging that cruising is not a zero-risk activity." For the details and color criteria (from least risk to most: Green, Orange, Yellow and Red) see: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/management/technical-instructions-for-cruise-ships.html#green-ship>

Crossfit Flamingo, continued from page 3

2-Squat with leg warm-ups

3-Skills or strength exercises: lift, handstand, planks, wall walk, etc., progressing eventually to 20 minutes

4-Complete 2-3 exercises as fast as possible (example running with a kettle ball 10 times)

Each exercise has modification and individualized options.

The coach gives advice through every exercise and corrects the movements to prevent injury. Beginners and pros do the same workout with modifications of less volume or weight.

“Everything can be modified, the movement, time, reps and weight,” said Damien.

Flamingo will soon be offering new fitness options beginning this month: Kenzie Delta Yoga classes

and a swim clinic with Swim Sport Bonaire. Plus there is swimming every Saturday from Jan. 8.

The Cost: Crossfit 3X per week for a month - \$99

Crossfit 4x per week for a month, unlimited gym - \$140 (three – six month discount)

Gym is \$10 per day, \$35 per week or \$50 per month

Yoga is \$10 per class or 10 for \$90, classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Damien is offering a new year Crossfit deal: pay for two months and get three. Everyone is welcome to try out a class for free.

Damien said, “Crossfit is more about coming together supporting each other and motivating each other. Fun thing is that the one that



Crossfit Flamingo's owner Damien de Wit

finishes last gets the most cheers. Crossfit prepares you for everything in life, no matter what you are doing.”

Story & photos Julie Morgan

Animal Shelter Bonaire Develops Donature Tag with Nobo



Plastic recycling startup NOBO developed a Donature Tag especially for Animal Shelter Bonaire with which the Shelter can raise additional much needed funds.

NOBO is a Social Enterprise that collects Type 2 plastic on Bonaire and transforms this waste material into useful products, like the Donature Tag.

Buyers of the Animal Shelter Tag contribute to two worthy causes on Bonaire: 1. Loving care for abandoned or abused animals, and 2. Reduction of the amount of Type 2 plastics going to the landfill.

Animal Shelter Bonaire has been caring for unwanted and abandoned animals since 1983. Since 2004, it has also provided a free spay/neuter program for over 7,000 cats and dogs. They provide loving care for an average of 100 dogs and 60 cats. With a small staff of 6, the Shelter relies on over 75 dedicated volunteers whose duties range from hands on animal care to fundraising. Their main fundraising activities are the Pakus di Pruga (second hand store) that sells gently used donated items at low cost to the local community, yearly flea markets and their booth at the cruise market. Costs for food, medical care, animal housing and sterilizations average over \$78,000.00 per year with prices rising every day.

Your purchase of an Animal Shelter Bonaire Donature tag for \$10.00 will help keep this vital organization going. Get your tag at Animal Shelter Bonaire or at their cruise market booth on cruise ship days. *Jane Disko*

Pasku Briante delivers 401 gift boxes to Bonaire's kids

“Pasku Briante” (Bright Christmas) a yearly project of BYOF (Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation) was once again a success. With the help of the local community, the 2021 Christmas gift drive for kids realized a total of 410 decorated gift boxes full of toys, school supplies and hygiene products. BYOF received over 500 individual gift donations this year.

The gifts were delivered over a two-day period by the youth group and other volunteers to three areas of Bonaire along with snack boxes and drinks. BYOF wants to thank everyone who took the time to make a donation to ensure Bonaire's kids had a bright Christmas. *JM*

The Bonaire Reporter Jan. 5 - Jan. 19, 2022

Parrots and People! Echo reflects on 2021 achievements

by Rayshantaly Coffie

As we start a new year, it's important to reflect on our achievements of the last year, thanks to all the hard work of our volunteers and your donations.

Many of our efforts in 2021 focused on collaborating with the community to educate and promote conservation efforts. Some examples of our collaborations in 2021 include a workshop on syntrophic farming to encourage farming practices that also support reforestation and conservation; collaborations with NOBO Bonaire and other local businesses to help us sell native trees and partnering with Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) to create a video and promote Echo's conservation efforts. We also developed and ran educational programs for school children to teach them to love nature and how to contribute to conservation for the Lora parrot and local biodiversity.

Reforestation is a large component of Echo's conservation efforts. It's important to monitor the results of the reforestation efforts to determine how well the trees survive to produce fruit which makes up a large part of the Lora's diet. We collected data on the plant-



PARROTS & PEOPLE, to page 13



DELTA ACADEMY STARTS WITH DUTCH & PAPIAMENTU LANGUAGE TRAINING

Delta Academy will start in January 2022 with the Dutch & Papiamentu for beginners course.

Do you want to be able to communicate with ease on Bonaire and increase your chances on the market?

In collaboration with the Dutch government, we can offer the training for a discounted price of USD 250,- including books and study materials.

The training is given in 12 weeks consisting of 2 lessons per week in the evenings.

Sign up and call +599 7013632 for more information



Supporting nature from page 1

others. Our goal for 2022 is protecting all Bonaire's mangroves, not just in Lac. Building a regional network, gaining experience and knowledge will support these goals. We are ready for 2022. To help or lend a hand visit www.mangrovemaniacs.org, or [mangrovemaniacs-bonaire](https://www.facebook.com/mangrovemaniacs-bonaire) on Facebook.



Bringing new life to used plastic.

Recycling of Type 2 plastic, (cleaners, detergent, shampoo, lotions etc.) into usable items such as phone holder, keyring, gardening pots and coasters. In 2021 NOBO launched their Donature tags to give support to different NGO's on Bonaire. For every purchase of the NOBO Donature tag you are giving financial support to that organization and helping to eliminate plastic in Bonaire's environment. Currently there are Donature tags to support Reef Renewal, Donkey Sanctuary and Animal Shelter Bonaire.

NOBO products are sold at Saltshop Bonaire, Smooth Operators and Buddy Dive Watersports. For more information about NOBO visit <https://www.nobobonaire.org> or visit their Facebook page.

one hour CLEAN UP POWER

Unfortunately for Bonaire and our oceans worldwide, this group of hard-working volunteers did their last cleanup in August after three years and eight months. They met every Saturday for an hour to remove coastline trash. They performed approximately 150 cleanups, 2700 plus man hours and picked up 8000 plus bags of marine waste. Their targeted areas included the southeast coasts between Sorobon and

Willemstoren, Lac, Lagoen, Morotin and Playa Grandi. Thank you for all your efforts and inspiring people to be more conscious of plastic use.



Overall, 2021 was definitely a year of firsts! We succeeded in outplanting more than 7,500 branching corals back to the reef, reaching our 2021 goals. We also took an exciting step in the process of propagating our three boulder coral species, adding to our nursery almost 1,400 new coral fragments that will be ready next year.

For our work in larval propagation, we proudly received a grant, provided by the IUCN through the BEST 2.0+ Program. This will allow us to continue to push forward and scale-up our effort through 2022. We have now extended our larvae propagation work to other important reef building corals species and, for the first time, collected and successfully fertilized millions of coral gametes from our raised and outplanted *Acropora* corals.

Recognizing coral resilience as our priority, we partnered with Florida International University in studies that aim to understand how we could increase coral's ability to tolerate environmental stress, thus improving the chances of long-term success for our restoration work in the face of climate change.



The support to protect and preserve Plantation Bolivia, the last wilderness on Bonaire, 3.000 hectares (10% of Bonaire), is growing.

In 2021 we were successful in stopping several illegal nature activities at the Ar-awak side of Plantation Bolivia. In 2022

we continue to strictly monitor activities which pose an imminent threat to the nature of Plantation Bolivia as well to other critical environmental habitats.

Actions really do speak louder than words!

Follow us on Facebook, your support will help us to reach our goal.

<https://www.saveplantationbolivia.com>



STCB celebrated 30 years of successful sea turtle conservation in 2021. This past year we did 35 transect count surveys on the west coast and Klein before covid limited our work.

The first 2021 nest was in May and between May and Nov. 398 patrols were done on Te Amo and Donkey beaches. We conducted 90 patrols on Klein and 75 on Play Chikitu finding more than 90 nests which is a little below the average 100 nests per season. Hatching was very high with 91% hatch success on Play Chikitu and 85% on Klein Bonaire. Several nests were lost due to high tides but all in all another successful nesting year.

Thanks to WWF-NL and Inter-American Sea Turtle convention temperature data loggers were placed on Klein and Chikitu. This is an important step in learning more about the effects of climate change on hatchlings. In six net-capture surveys at Lac Bay we captured, measured, weighed and tagged more than 250 turtles which were mostly green. On the west coast we captured 21 turtles including three hawksbills in September surveys.

STCB organized several presentations for kids and we were finally able to resume our presentations at Yellow Sub.

Thanks to all our volunteers, staff, board members, funders, sponsors and partner organization for these past 30 years.



In 2021:

- Our biologists monitored (31200 m2) of coral reef for lionfish, lobster, grouper, barracudas and conch

-Rangers cleaned and repainted all 96 moorings in the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP)

- Ten clean-ups were organized in BNMP

-Echo counted 479 loras in Washington Slagbaai Park

-There were 1,140 Bonaire primary school children taught about nature and the environment

-Rangers patrolled the BNMP on land and at sea for 5000 hours.

-Rangers reported 18 violations in the BNMP to police and island government.

-A 6,848 m fence was constructed in Washington Slagbaai Park to protect the vegetation from invasive species (goats)

-Removal of 1,629 goats in Washington Slagbaai Park

-At the tree planting festival in Washington Slagbaai Park, 230 children planted native trees

-Nature conservation jobs for 122 Bonaireans were created

-High court reaffirmed in a court case that an environmental impact assessment is required for large scale development plans that affect the BNMP

-No Pier will be built in the Willem Alexander No Diving Reserve.

-Some 44 Junior Rangers graduated this year

-Planting of 400 Sabal Palms on Klein Bonaire

-Rangers issued 17 warnings for violations of the BNMP rules

-Our biologists monitored birds four times per year in eight salinas.

Wishing everyone the very best in 2022

Thank you to all our advertisers and readers who make the The Bonaire Reporter possible

"Be safe - we are all safe when we are all safe"



Did You Know? ...that one of the male octopus' arms is shaped and used especially for mating?

The octopus I see the most often when exploring the Bonaire National Marine Park is the Common Octopus, *Octopus vulgaris*, a species found throughout the world's oceans. Each time I find an octopus, or squid for that matter, it is special. Maybe it's because they are not so easy to find or maybe because, when you do find them, you realize that they are aware of us watching them. Besides their amazing intelligence and ability to change color, shape and skin texture to match their surroundings, mimic other animals or communicate, octopuses are fascinating creatures.

Common octopuses have three hearts, blood rich in copper instead of iron, and absorb almost half of the oxygen they need (when resting) through their skin! They also have a beak with which they feed and they produce venom, called cephalotoxin, that they use to paralyze their prey. This is not nearly as dangerous as the deadly venom produced by the blue-ringed octopus called tetrodotoxin. Young octopuses increase their body weight 5% each day. This is like a 6-year-old gaining a kilo a day (2.2 lbs)!

The common octopus only lives 1-2 years. They live just long enough to mate. When she is ready to mate, the female octopus will find a suitable hole in the reef and wait for a male to find her. The male octopus has one very long

arm, up to 1 meter long, called the hectocotylus, that it uses to transfer packets of sperm to the female octopus. Some male octopuses (different species) actually break off their own arm and hand it over to the female. The common octopus may mate with several females, but will then stop feeding and soon die. The female will use the sperm packet to fertilize 100,000-500,000 eggs, and attach them to the rocks in her hole. She will then use her siphon to circulate water over the eggs, clean them and protect them until they hatch. She doesn't feed during this time and, once her eggs hatch, she slowly deteriorates and dies.

Every now and then I see a really ratchet octopus out in the open. It will be missing arms and look extremely ragged. It's most likely a male or female octopus that is fast approaching its last days.

Scientists aren't sure why octopus die after mating. Some think maybe the female would eat her own young and others think they would grow indefinitely and upset the entire octopus ecosystem. Jan Wang, while researching octopuses at the University of Chicago said, "It's very strange to see as humans because we reproduce more than once and live way past our reproductive age, but if the whole purpose of living is to pass along your genes, maybe it's not so dark."



Written by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature. Photo by Julie Morgan

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Ask Kate & Jean Bonaire real estate advice



Jean and Kate

"This is the year I buy on Bonaire! I'm coming down in February, what paperwork should I bring? What steps do I take when I'm there? Angie"

Hi Angie,

Congratulations on deciding to buy a piece of heaven! Here are the things you will need to do:

1. Schedule a meeting with your real estate agent before your arrival. We like to have about two weeks email notice of your trip so we can start identifying properties for you and schedule time to see them.

2. If you need a mortgage, plan time to meet with the bank. Money laundering preventative regulations require the first meeting to be in person. The rest can be done by email when you're back home.

3. Bring your passport and driver's license for ID for meetings

with the bank. This information will also be used to write a purchase agreement on the property you select.

4. You do not need to bring a check or cash for earnest money. If you make an offer that is accepted, you will send a wire transfer from your account to the Notaris (closing agent) within 10 business days of the fully signed agreement.

Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team Re/Max Bonaire

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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Happy New Year wishes

New year resolutions are hard to fulfill. You start off full of courage to make all those wishes and resolutions come true but somehow that never happens. The first thing I would like to wish you is: courage and hope.

The next thing is to wish you strength because it is very sad and disappointing when your wishes don't come true. Staying strong is important because the new year is a long one.

I also wish you humor, because if you look at life and things with humor, it seems better, lighter and easier to accept.

Living on your own as an elderly person is not easy. If you have a headstrong mentality it might be hard to accept or

ask for help. Most people really want to help others only they don't know how. Being very clear about what you need and want helps to achieve just that. Do not be ashamed to ask for help. Be very specific and set goals that are easy to achieve.

Do not forget to plan recreation as well. Life is easier when you have fun. So, ask a friend out to a happy hour, invite friends over for a pot-luck brunch, bring cold drinks and enjoy a few hours at the beach...the possibilities are endless. You decide the agenda. You don't have to be alone.

Make use of all the help different organizations offer. There is so much:

meals-on-wheels, housecleaning services, homecare, making your house / bathroom accessible or acquire help to visit your doctor, getting a pedicure, etc. You don't have to go by yourself and be insecure. Learn to play the guitar, quartet or sinfonia or make handiwork. During these activities you can meet people and talk to peers. Start up a reading or cooking club. Have fun.

And if you need more adventure get together with a few friends and plan a trip. Although a trip to one of our neighboring islands or even to the U.S.A. might be in your future, Covid 19 still has us in its grip so travelling is not a sensible thing to do so for now. We can be safe and take trips on our island: a sunset sailing trip or look for an indigenous guide and have a walkabout.

You can also decide to become a mentor or a buddy. Visit an elderly person or a person mentally challenged in one of the care facilities. Be a coach to a younger student and share what you know. This

can be very satisfying and fulfilling. I learned that getting angry and frustrated does not help and is very bad for your well-being. I decided to look for positive results and take different approaches. When I see things happen or see things change I make positive remarks with a broad smile and show thankfulness. This makes me feel better and the opposite party as well.

Whatever 2022 will bring us, let's show positivity, human understanding and empathy. We all need each other more than we think.

Have an amazing 2022, everyone.

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.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

All Because of a Horseshoe Nail

Contact can kill stony corals in ways we'd never expect, ways that don't relate to any living things we know.

When we see coral rocks on the beach or even on the reef, it's hard to imagine how they were ever alive, or how contact could have been a killer. Of course, contact doesn't kill the rock skeleton of the coral animal; what contact does do is kill the animal itself by cutting it against its own sharp skeleton. Still, it's logical to wonder: how significant could it possibly be if something mashed a few polyps of the thousands that make up even a relatively small coral colony? Let's answer with that old proverb: for want of a nail, the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe, the horse was lost; for want of a horse the rider was lost, for want of the rider the kingdom was lost, all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

What would happen if that horseshoe nail was missing because someone dropped it on a reef?

First it's good to know how a reef is formed. Each coral colony begins as a single coral animal, called a polyp, which from its swimming larval stage attached to a hospitable spot and began to secrete its stony skeleton. Imagine an individual coral polyp as a fingertip-sized "anemone" growing in a limestone "bottle cap." As the anemone/polyp grows, it secretes more limestone beneath and around itself, and its distance from its original base gets greater. Then, when the anemone/polyp grows to a certain size and other conditions are right, it splits into two fully functional polyps. Its tube splits too, into a "Y". Since 1998, the brain coral formation I call Tootsie, attached to the leg of an upside-down plastic chair, has grown to be about two feet (60 cm) in diameter – and every individual in the Tootsie colony is a clone of that

first polyp.

Here's the best part: coral polyps never die of old age. They just keep on growing and splitting.

But although coral doesn't die of old age, it does die; it's vulnerable to both disease and injury. Each polyp in a coral colony is an individual living animal. If only one or two polyps are killed, the surrounding ones usually are able to cover the space, like a comb-over does to a small bald spot. If more polyps die, however, the polyps can't cover the bald spot.

At this point you may be thinking, "Big deal, a bald spot. My aunt had one too and it didn't slow her down a bit!"

If the coral's dead spot would stay bald like your aunt's, it wouldn't be a problem. Instead, however, algae grows on the spot. A damselfish might move in, adopt the algae, and enlarge its farm by killing more polyps.

With or without algae, though, the colony's bald spot is a hospitable, available location for larval animals, including corals and sponges, looking to settle. Since sponges grow much more quickly than reef-building corals, a sponge colony in the bald spot is likely to eventually overgrow some of the colony's living coral. The coral polyps it covers will smother, creating additional bald spots.

Other common, damaging residents of a coral's dead spot are anemones, ironic because corals and anemones are close relatives. An anemone is much like a gigantic coral polyp with no skeleton. As the anemone overgrows the bald spot, its tentacles fight, and defeat, any coral polyps they can reach.

So -- because of that (imaginary) dropped horseshoe nail, coral polyps were killed and a dead spot was created. Because the polyps were dead, the spot

could be enlarged. Because the dead spot was enlarged, the colony grew into a different shape, changing the reef forever. All for the loss of a horseshoe nail.

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 Cor-

al'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.



This anemone has killed the polyps it can reach of the nearby coral colony.



A few years later, the anemone still reaches the coral colony; all new growth on that side of the coral has been prevented by the anemone's tentacles. The polyps on the unaffected side of the coral head, however, have grown about 2/3" (17mm).

The perfect pair: Del Mar Books & Pink Coral iT

Wouldn't it be great if you could find the help you need with your Apple computer system and purchase office supplies all in one place? I'm not talking about taking a trip off island or ordering from Amazon, but a store or rather two stores right here on Bonaire.

Francis den Doelder of Pink Coral iT and Patricia Joven of Del Mar books, art & office supplies have joined forces in a new two story building on Kaya Soeur Bartola 13A.

Francis worked in the printing industry from 1989 to 2011 in Holland. Somewhere around 1994, he was bitten by the Apple bug and along the way became Apple certified. This would later lead him to fulfill his dream in the Apple world and eventually move to Bonaire in 2019 and open Pink Coral iT.

"It started slow, and it was difficult to get some traction because I was still doing work in the Netherlands. But when covid came I shifted my focus to Bonaire," said Francis.

While trying to get his traction, he signed up for a Chamber of Commerce meeting about how to do business in Bonaire. Many of the meetings were held at Addo's Bookstore where Patricia worked. It wasn't long before Francis became a regular customer and asked Patricia out for dinner.

When Addo's closed, Patricia was free to start her own business and she had some great ideas of how to make it work.

Patricia found a building with Francis' help and after adding some finishing touches Del Mar officially opened in July. Soon after plans were made for Pink Coral iT to take up residence on the second floor of the building.

Curious about the company names? Francis had tried various combinations of Bonaire and iT and finally hit on Pink Coral iT, borrowing the first part from a Dutch company called Pink Elephant.

Patricia wanted something to do with the sea and because of her Venezuelan heritage chose Del Mar, because everything on Bonaire revolves around the sea.

Francis describes his business as Apple support in the broadest way that includes issues with updates, repairs, hard drives and also iPhone repairs. He installs both wired and wireless networks because as he said, 'there is no Wi-Fi without wires'. They install security cameras, alarm and intercom systems and for non-Apple issues Max



Patricia Joven of Del Mar Books, Art and Office Supplies with Francis den Doelder of Pink Coral iT

Homburg is on the Pink Coral staff.

Del Mar offers children's educational and comprehension books, toys and games. For adults Patricia stocks Bonaire themed books, languages books and dictionaries in Papiamentu, English and Dutch. Del Mar stocks all types of office supplies: agendas, calendars, markers pens, pencils, etc. Artists will find craft materials, papers, canvas flats, Royal Talens acrylic, oil and watercolor paint and numerous brushes in different sizes and bristles.

As with any new businesses there are always plans for the future, Patricia is setting up an online webshop for order and pick up and she hopes to include artist workshops and a small gallery. Francis is still getting the new upstairs Pink Coral space organized and when it all comes together, he plans to include basic Apple computer training.

Del Mar is open from Monday to Friday, from 9-12 a.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Pink Coral iT is open by appointment at +599-777-4749 or info@pinkcoral-it.com

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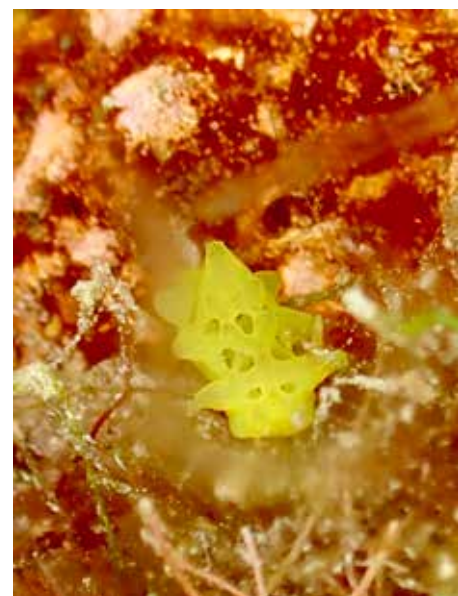
Story & Photo Julie Morgan

Local diver finds rare nudibranch

In exciting news for the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP), a sighting of *Aegires sublaevis*, a rare nudibranch, was documented at the Cliff dive site in 2021. Incredibly, this nudibranch has not been documented anywhere in the Caribbean, and this extraordinary discovery showcases the diversity – known and unknown – of the reefs protected in the BNMP since 1979. Bonaire continues to win scuba-diving awards worldwide for its beautiful macro-life and this discovery only further highlights why reef conservation is vitally important.

Nudibranchs, a type of mollusk, fascinate both biologists and scuba-divers world-wide. A diverse group, members are known for their elaborate colors, ability to photosynthesize, and sometimes cannibalistic behaviors, gaining them a passionate following from both underwater photographers and scientists alike. Forums around the world unite researchers, scientists, and photographers in their quest to discover and document these tiny creatures with big personalities. It is through one such forum that researcher Dr. Leslie Wilk, co-author of *Reef Creature Identification: Florida Caribbean Bahamas*, tracked down author Tricia O'Malley, an amateur underwater photographer, as she had the only known photographs in the Caribbean of the rare nudibranch, *Aegires sublaevis*.

"I affectionately referred to the nudibranch as "Glow Cheese," because I was unable to find the correct identification. Its brilliant yellow color and patchy



***Aegires sublaevis*, a rare nudibranch, found and photographed by Tricia O'Malley**

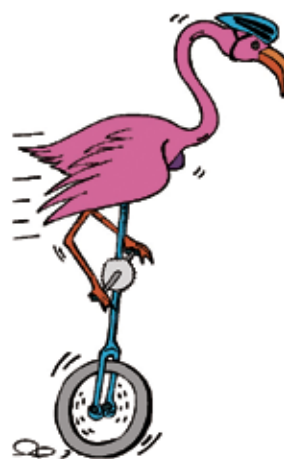
skin made me think of a block of Swiss Cheese. I was delighted to discover it at the Cliff dive site – one of my favorite locations for macro life and night diving," O'Malley states.

Incidentally, through discussion with Dr. Wilk, O'Malley learned that she'd also documented another rare nudibranch at the same site – an undescribed member of the family *Dorididae*.

"I take joy in night diving because the reefs truly come alive in the dark. It is astounding to me that after hundreds of dives at Bonaire, I still discover new and

Rare nudibranch cont. on page 13

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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.

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.

12 steps meeting: Every Wednesday evening 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm
Address: Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (in the yellow building)

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.

What's Happening

Bonaire Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. With a subscription from the library, members can also find books online outside opening hours and request information. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and informative books can be found on www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tuesday - Friday 9-4

Washington Slagbaai: Open every day. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +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. Central Kralendijk): Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

Sunday January 9	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 pm Boka Onima Beach. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist.
Saturday January 22	Quarterly Clean up Dive. Dive Friends, info@divefriendsbonaire.com
Saturday January 29	Annual Lora Roost Count 6-8 am. To volunteer phone Echo +599 701 1188.

Courses

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

Delta Academy offers three month beginner level courses in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. See pages 5 and 6.

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? Is Bonaire a volcanic island?

All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by André Nahr. The class will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18, Thursday, Jan. 20 and Saturday, Jan. 22 at Captain Don's Habitat Buckley Room.

Sessions one and two are from 7-9 pm and session three brings everything together in a fun field trip from 9 am - 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. Cost is \$105.00 p.p. payable in cash at the first session,

Sign up at geology.andrenahr@gmail.com, but don't wait too long, there are only 15 spots available!

Don't miss the opportunity to learn Bonaire's fascinating geology!

2022 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule 2nd Sunday of each month		
January 9th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
February 13th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
March 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
April 10th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
May 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
June 12th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
July 10th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
August 14th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
September 11th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
October 9th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
November 13th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
December 11th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM

Tentative cruise ship schedule January 2022

DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	CAPACITY & LINE
Wednesday	01-05	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830 Marella
Friday	01-07	Nieuw Statendam	0700-1800	2650 Holland American
Saturday	01-08	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894 TUI Germany
Sunday	01-09	CEL Constellation	0800-2000	2034 RCCL/CEL
Monday	01-10	AidaPerla	0800-1800	3300 Aida Cruises
Tuesday	01-11	Regal Princess	0700-1700	3560 Princess
Wednesday	01-12	Horizon	1000-2300	3954 Carnival USA
Thursday	01-13	Grandeur OTS	0800-2000	1992 RCCL/CEL
Monday	01-17	Independent OTS	1100-1900	3634 RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	01-19	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830 Marella
Thursday	01-20	NCL Epic	0600-1300	4100 NCL
Thursday	01-20	Freedom	0800-1600	2980 Carnival USA
Saturday	01-22	World Voyager	0800-1600	200 Nicko Cruises
Saturday	01-22	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894 TUI Germany
Sunday	01-23	Costa Deliziosa	0800-1600	2000 COSTA
Monday	01-24	AidaPerla	0800-1800	3300 Aida Cruises
Tuesday	01-25	CEL Equinox	0800-1900	2858 RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	01-26	Horizon	0800-1600	3954 Carnival USA
Thursday	01-27	Aida Sol	0700-2100	2194 Aida Cruises
Friday	01-28	Nieuw Statendam	0800-2300	2650 Holland American
Friday	01-28	Explorer OTS	0700-1600	3114 RCCL/CEL
Monday	01-31	Brittania	0700-1800	3647 P&O

STINAPA Nature Fee

The 2021 Nature Fee expires on Jan 1, 2022. However, a grace period makes your nature fee valid until January 14, 2022. The 2022 Nature Fee became available for purchase on December 16, 2021. It will be valid through the rest of 2021 and 2022. Pay at <https://stinapa.bonairenaturefee.org>
Commemorative tags for 2022 are available at Stinapa, Washington Park and participating dive shops.



Direct flights to Bonaire

KLM -Amsterdam	2022: Daily
TUI -Amsterdam	2022 Daily
Delta - Atlanta	Jan. 4 to April 9, 2022: 4 weekly flights: Mon. Wed Fri.
American -Miami	From Jan 3, 2022: Weekly flights Mon. Wed Sat.
United - Houston, & Newark	Beginning Nov. 6, 2021 Saturday flights from both Houston and Newark. Arriving at 1:30 pm and 5:30 pm. Return flight on Sunday

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Beginning 2022

Hello all Reporter readers and people on Bonaire, I start my story with my best wishes for you for 2022.

Laugh, love, live life at the fullest in each and every moment you have been given, because you only live one time. Share, care and make the best of it.

Cinnamon

We just began 2022, so we are still enjoying the new year. Nice food and leftovers are on the menu these days.

One of the spices used in many recipes of the new year's celebrations is cinnamon. I want to give you some special information because it has its good side, but there are certain things you should be aware of. Cinnamon is a popular spice to flavor everything from mulled wine to pumpkin pie. Cinnamon, the bark of a small evergreen tree, has been used as a medicine for centuries, if not millennia. It's widely used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat, among other things,

did it come from? Know what you eat. "acute traumatic pain and "weak digestion." In Ayurvedic medicine it is used to treat arthritis, diarrhea and menstrual irregularities. Cinnamon has shown good effects on blood cholesterol and people with diabetes.

However, the herb contains a compound called COUMARIN, which can cause or worsen liver disease. Coumarin is also chemically related to the blood thinning drug, warfarin. Cinnamon is considered safe for most people when used in small amounts. The two most common types of cinnamon are cassia cinnamon (Indonesian, Vietnamese, Chinese) and so-called true cinnamon, Ceylon cinnamon. Real cinnamon has lower levels of coumarin (0.004%) compared to cassia cinnamon. The Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry warns us that, "On average, cassia cinnamon powder contained up to 63 times more coumarin than Ceylon cinnamon powder and cassia cinnamon sticks contained 18 times more coumarin than Ceylon."

In the Caribbean, cinnamon is used on a regular basis in stews, baking, desserts, sweets, jams and juices. In knowing the background of cinnamon, one can make a choice in the use, the type and the amount of it.



Food trends and lifestyles

Talking about food, do you know that there are food trends? Whether cooking at home for a party with stuff from your own garden or going out to eat, you can choose healthy food. In 2022, healthy food can give food value to our busy lives.

1- Fresh salads for lunch. Use your own greens from your garden to add to a lunch salad.

2- Where does your food come from; trace your food. For example fish, where

3- Personal style. You can choose the food style that fits perfectly your unique lifestyle or diet.

4- Fast food. Cook like a chef. When you prepare food for your busy family, make the meals good, fast and flexible. You can plan a base food that needs just a short finishing touch to suit each family meal.

5- Sustainable food. Beef tea. Vegetarian food.

6- Staycation. Urban agriculture- eat what is local, nearby and fresh.

Looking to this, I see that having my own garden fits perfectly in today's lifestyle. Making a fast, fresh salad from greens out of the garden saves time that you would spend in the busy supermarkets and saves money from not buying very expensive fresh vegetables. Eating fresh from your garden means high food value and knowing that your vegetables have been grown without any bug spray or artificial stuff, just honest, pure green.

So if you look for a healthy 2022, start taking care of yourself with healthy good food from your own garden. Start now, just do it.

Rare nudibranch, continued from page 11

exciting finds on each dive. The Cliff dive site is particularly bountiful when it comes to finding nudibranchs, and I can't tell you how excited I am to have had the opportunity to see such rare and unusual macro-life. I'm truly honored to live somewhere that declares their commitment to protecting the reefs. It just shows that there is so much more to learn about the delicate reef ecosystem and that the Netherlands should consider Bonaire's reef to be a crown jewel to be preserved at all costs," O'Malley continues.

In his research, Dr. Wilk also discovered other rare nudibranchs found on Bonaire by local naturalist, Ellen Muller. These nudibranchs are *Trapania bonellanae*, as well as an undescribed species of *Cerberilla*. These finds only serve to further highlight the extraordinary diversity of Bonaire's reef.

"Recent finds show that Bonaire, in particular, has several rare and undescribed species. The rarest is *Trapania bonellanae*, an endemic slug named partly after the island and partly after the local resident who discovered it. *Aegires sublaevis*, a species rarely seen anywhere, was recently photographed at Bonaire. Undescribed species of *Spurilla*, *Cerberilla*, and *Dorididae* have been found in Bonaire's shallows, but nowhere else. There is also a rare color form of *Elysia flava*," Dr. Wilk states.

"Such extraordinary aspects of Bonaire's sea slug fauna extend to other marine taxa. For example, the preliminary results of a 2020 survey of Bonaire's marine biodiversity, funded by Naturalis Biodiversity Center and the ANEMOON Foundation, discovered the existence of at least seven species of invertebrates that are new to science. I mention the above to highlight that on-going research

is revealing Bonaire's marine life to be more diverse and remarkable than ever expected. Accordingly, governmental authorities that create and implement Bonaire's coastal development policies should place even more emphasis on making decisions that respect, protect, and preserve its marine environment," Dr. Wilk states.

Implications

These findings provide exciting new insight into Bonaire's coral reef ecosystems and the opportunity for new marine life discoveries. It is vitally important to protect an environment where new species are still being discovered. As development on Bonaire increases, so does the pressure on the dynamic reef ecosystem, and it will be crucial that conservation lead Bonaire's future.

The discovery of the *Aegires sublaevis* will be published in the upcoming field guide "Tropical West Atlantic Sea Slugs."

Report your sightings

These nudibranch sightings have been stored in Observation.org:

<https://observation.org/observation/229037868/>

Species reports by local communities and tourists are invaluable for nature conservation efforts.

You can report your nature sightings and photos on the website www.Observation.org or download the free apps (iPhone (iObs) & Android (ObsMapp)). You can also send your information to research@DCNAnature.org for support with getting your data stored.

Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance.

Photo Tracy O'Malley

Parrots & People, continued from page 6

ed trees within our reforestation areas, such as Seru Langu and Yerba di Seru. We found that about 66-72% of trees survived, which is a great number! The surviving trees were in good condition, with several of them reaching over 2 meters in height and the tallest ones have grown to 2.5 meters. You may want to come and hear all the results on Jan. 11 at Posada Para Mira from 6:30 till 8 p.m.

At Echo, we monitor the health of the Lora population by conducting nest surveys and roost counts. We are excited to report that we saw an increase in the Lora population in 2021 over previous years! During the July roost count, we counted 911 Yellow-Shouldered Amazon Parrots

(Loras) in 25 areas. Thank you to the 46 volunteers that helped us!

Echo will conduct the next parrot roost count on Jan. 29. There are multiple observation points for conducting the parrot count, and each one needs two volunteers as observers. Do you want to join us? To sign up contact us at info@echobonaire.com.

If you would like to learn more about Echo or book a tour, please visit www.echobonaire.org

You can also help us meet our 2022 conservation goals with a donation!

<https://www.mightycause.com/story/Gift2nature>

Board change at Dive-Friends-Bonaire.com B.V.

As of January 1, 2022, Bart Linders will be the Statutory Director of Dive-Friends-Bonaire.com B.V. replacing Peter Muijselaar.

The change of board was scheduled earlier but postponed due to the covid pandemic. A crisis team was established instead consisting of Peter Muijselaar (director / shareholder), Perry van Hoevelaken (shareholder) and Bart Linders (general manager). The reason for this was easy: "Three heads are better than one, in this case".

From March 2020 on, the crisis team has been in close contact with each other to cope with the crisis, to closely monitor the situation, adjust and take necessary measures. Recently, the frequency of the meetings was downscaled to once a week. The company is back in calmer waters, and it's a time for the board change.

The main challenge we are facing is how attract new staff. Simultaneously with the change of board, a Supervisory Board will be appointed. We have full confidence that with these changes, Dive-Friends-Bonaire.com B.V. vouches for a great, solid and future-oriented company.

To all parties concerned, best of luck in the future. Due to the current COVID-19 mea-

asures and restrictions on the island, we have decided against hosting a reception as in previous years. *The Stakeholders*

Covid-19 round-up, from page 2

lands to send 16-20 more medical people to help it cope with its corona outbreak. He said they have built a new, large and expensive hospital, but now can't afford to staff it adequately because of the omicron surge.

Air Canada is not flying to Aruba for the time being. Too many travelers have been canceling their flights because of increased corona danger on the island. Aruba currently has more than 3,000 corona infections.

Patients from abroad can still go to Colombia for medical care. The Colombian Ministry of Health has announced special entry regulations for both emergency patients and non-emergency/elective care patients. *DMR*

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CLEAN COAST



Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet Miss Fluff or Wendy, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. The Shelter is open Monday till Friday 10 am to 1 pm and 2-3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am till 3 pm nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment to see them, via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Wendy

This pretty girl is Wendy,

a female cat about one year old. We don't know anything of her past because we found her in the Shelter kouchi one morning...together with a dog! We do know that Wendy is very sweet and affectionate and loves to be petted. She is also very pretty with a beautiful long haired tail and an adorable half moustache. Wendy is sterilized, has had her vaccinations and tested negative for FIV and leukemia. She has proved she gets along with dogs and cats but she also would be happy to be your one and only pet! Come and meet our sweet and pretty girl Wendy at Animal Shelter Bonaire. *Story Monique DeGenaar*

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



Miss Fluff

Dear fur friends,

I would like to introduce myself as Miss Fluff! My real name is Bea but Miss Fluff suits me also, and I like it! I'm a lovely lady about 1 year old. Some basic commands I already understand, but I would like to learn much more. I'm really playful and love to cuddle. I recently discovered that I really like it when they brush my hair because it turns out so soft and fluffy. I like other dogs. I haven't met any cats yet but I think if they are nice to me I will like them. I hope I find my family soon so I can have a good new year. If you think that I will fit into your family then don't wait any longer and come and get me at Animal Shelter Bonaire!! Hope to see you soon!

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Shelter News



Wishing you a peaceful New Year



L-R: Jane Disko Sanne Attevelt Monique Degenaar Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



Del Mar Olliebollenrit on Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, was the final fun race of the year for Bonaire's cyclists. The bikers met at Te Amo Beach and headed out at 3:30 on either a short or long route on asphalt roads. Thirty-one cyclists joined the race and all returned by 6 pm for a reward of olliebollen, wine and beer.

Patricia Joven, owner of Del Mar Books, is shown here with the winner in the women's class, Roxanne de Kaper and Virgilio Batista who won in the men's.

The sponsor for the race was Del Mar Bookstore. Thanks to De Freewieler for a great year of bike races. SEE MORE PHOTOS ON THE REPORTER'S FACEBOOK PAGE.



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Purposes for the new year

Why do lists of purposes for the new year generally fail? Usually when we make these lists, they are filled with lofty resolutions, high standards, and very laudable goals. For example, losing weight, start practicing yoga or going to the gym, introducing mindfulness into daily life, paying off all debts, improving the relationship with an irritating relative, eating healthy, etc. Why can't we accomplish them? What is the general flaw of these lists? It is not exactly the content, but perhaps the way we think about their purpose.

Common to these lists is that they involve breaking old habits and introducing new ones. Most of the purposes listed involve making major changes and often the goals are extremely demanding. Some of them require a great deal of modifications in our lives to be achieved.

Let's look at the example of an absolutely sedentary man who sets his goal to run a marathon. Without planning intermediate steps the plan would be doomed to failure. The secret is that the intermediate steps must set objectives if we are to achieve success.

To achieve these intermediate goals, it is best to plan the introduction of micro-habits in our lives. What are micro-habits? Let's look first at what habits are: actions that we frequently perform almost automatically without a perceived effort of will. There are many habits in our daily lives. Each person has his/her own. They can be brushing your teeth, preparing breakfast, a morning walk with the dogs, the way to dress, having a coffee or a tea after eating; everyone knows their own habits. It might take an effort to discover them, since they are so embedded in our routines that we do not even notice them.

The trick to introducing a new habit to help us achieve some of the great purposes at each beginning of the year, is to design a micro-habit that is so small it is extremely easy to do. For example, if we want to start practicing yoga every morning, one way to introduce the habit would be to start by proposing a three-minute practice between brushing our teeth and having breakfast. This three-minute practice is very easy to do and doing so gives us a positive feeling of accomplishment. Thinking that we are going to practice only three minutes takes the weight off the idea of a half hour or 45 minute practice.

Let's remember from our physics classes in high school, that the greatest effort is to get a body out of its inertia. That means starting requires more work. So, if we generate the idea that doing three minutes of yoga is easily doable, we break the inertia with less effort. Once we link it to another existing habit, it is easier for us to place it in our routine. Now what we have to do is to allow time to be able to do more than three minutes of yoga if we feel like it and this usually happens once we start. But if we only do three minutes, we can consider the initial purpose fulfilled. This generates a positive cascade of emotions, thoughts and neurotransmitters that rewards us internally, orienting us to success. That way, by introducing micro-habits we can pave our path to important goals.

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.

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