

FREE

BONAIRE The REPORTER



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Maddie, *Mobula c.f. birostris*, Caribbean Manta Ray, photographed and named by citizen scientist Rayna O’Nan, Florida .

Manta Rays in Bonaire?

When divers and snorkelers head to the waters of Bonaire, they don’t usually expect to see a manta ray. Mantas are generally associated with the islands of Micronesia, Hawaii, Indonesia or the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. But these beautiful, gentle giants are here and throughout the Caribbean.

According to Nicole Pelletier of Manta Trust and founder of Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program (CIMCP), Bonaire is a bit of a hot spot with a huge population of divers and potential divers. Nicole landed in Bonaire in October 2021

to educate divers and build a Caribbean data base on mobulids, otherwise known as manta and devil rays.

“Bonaire will never be a place where I can take people out to see manta rays or where we can have a big manta ray tourism,” said Nicole, “but by being here I can educate divers who will go other places in the world... and they will then know the information we are looking for and be able to interact [with mantas] in a sustainable way.”

There is so much unknown as they have only been studied since 2005 when Manta Trust began in the Maldives. There is very little historical data available.

Nicole said, “We just don’t have the information; there was a paper done in Venezuela in the 80’s. There are so many mysteries. We don’t know how far they travel, because there have never been studies done in the Caribbean. They are a challenging animal to study.”

Research is important because the species numbers are declining. Mantas are threatened due to by-catch fishing, fishing line entanglement, gill nets and shark fishing nets.

Manta rays can’t swim backwards and have to keep moving forward to move water through their gills. If they become trapped in fishing or mooring lines and try to get out of it by doing backward rolls, they become even more entangled and will most likely die.

Another major problem are gill rapers. People in Asia target the mantas for their

gill plates to use in their traditional medicine.

If mantas are taken out through fishing pressure, the population cannot be sustained.

Nicole said, “Mantas are long lived, 30-50 years, but only have one to two pups every two to five years. They are completely harmless, and very easy to kill; they are just big. If you take out members of a population then you’ve lost an entire generation. If somebody takes out a member around these islands then the population can’t sustain.”

Nicole has learned through her data collection since October, that the three most common species seen on Bonaire are: *Mobula birostris* (Oceanic), *Mobula c.f. birostris* (Caribbean and *Mobula tarapacana* (devil rays). The animals range in size with the Oceanic having the largest wingspan of up to 22ft (6.7m), the Caribbean 16 ft. max (4.9m) and the devil ray with a max of 11ft (3.35m).

Total documented sightings of mobulids in the Caribbean is 932; Dutch Caribbean 380 and Bonaire 258. Numbers collected for this year in the ABC islands and Saba are 32 and 105 for the entire Caribbean.

Nicole said, “People come to [Bonaire] to look for the small stuff. I tell them to look in the blue every once in a while – look up. I can’t imagine how many people have had a manta pass by and they don’t even see it because their head is stuck in the coral. There is some great stuff there, don’t get me wrong, but look into the blue

every once in a while.”

If you have been lucky enough to see a manta then CIMCP needs to hear from you. You can even name the manta if it is the first sighting. Nicole is working with DCNA collecting data from citizen scientists, otherwise known as divers and snorkelers. Photos, videos, date, time and any other information is useful, the more the better.

“The big challenge is getting people to send it in. I wish I could go out and see a manta every day. But it’s not about seeing a manta here, it is more about reaching out to people and helping to build databases around the world,” said Nicole.

Learn more about mantas at Nicole’s Manta Monday presentation at Yellow Submarine at 7:30 p.m. She hopes to reach as many people as possible and hopes to do more presentations. If you’re interested, contact her at caribbean.islands@mantatrust.org or on Facebook/ Instagram @ [caribbeanislandsmanta](https://www.instagram.com/caribbeanislandsmanta).

Originally from Rhode Island, Nicole is a marine biologist, researcher educator and founder of CIMCP. She has worked in Australia where she fell in love with diving; Utila, whale sharks; the Philippines, Coral Cay Conservation; La Paz, whale sharks, St Croix, Nature Conservancy and the Maldives as project manager for the Maldivian Manta Ray Project. Nicole is also a PADI instructor.

By Julie Morgan



Nicole Pelletier of Manta Trust and founder of Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program (CIMCP). Photo Julie Morgan

TV documentary raises ethical questions about Bonaire Fuel Terminals

On February 17, Zembla, a Dutch investigative TV program, aired a documentary on government funding that is intended to help Bonaire secure its energy future. Zembla disclosed that the funding agency, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK), has apparently been self-dealing. In December EZK granted 10 million euros to Bonaire Fuel Terminals (BBT), a recently formed business entity. EZK owns BBT, 100%.

The Bonaire Public Body wants EZK to support the Water and Energy Board (WEB). In 2021 WEB submitted a proposal to EZK requesting a subsidy for clean energy development, but EZK did not respond for two years.

Total independence from fossil fuels is still only a dream for the future, certainly. But WEB estimates that soon 80% of Bonaire's electricity could be generated by the sun and the wind, with a 40% to 50% reduction in people's power bills. Much progress could have been made toward that goal while WEB was waiting to hear from EZK.

Then last April the Rutte III government—to the total surprise of the OLB—formed BBT, announcing the company would assure Bonaire's fuel supply. In December EZK granted BBT 10 million euros. Some commentators suspect BBT was founded for the purpose of extending Bonaire's dependence on fossil fuel, an alternative supported by certain interests.

According to Zembla, the company's papers of incorporation make no mention of renewable energy. Dossier Koninkrijks Relaties points out that the parliamentary motion confirming the 10 million euro grant to BBT did extend the company's mandate to include stimulating sustainable energy production on the island. Dossier Koninkrijks Relaties suggests, however, that amendment was included only to appease members of the House of Representatives who oppose investing in fossil fuels.

When the 10 million euro grant was announced in December, Marcelino de Lannoy, Project Director at BBT, announced the company's intention was to reach between 70 to 80% sustainable energy—but gradually. He also said the 10 million Euros would contribute indirectly to the island's energy needs. EZK did not give BBT the cash; it invested the money in additional shares. The money was intended to increase the value of the company and thereby enable it to attract additional capital for projects it undertakes.

Whatever the Rutte III government's motives for founding BBT, two effects have been clear. BBT, rather than the OLB, is now the driver of energy developments on Bonaire. And WEB's

project has been stalled.

Zembla is well known for raising public awareness regarding issues that some politicians would prefer were kept quiet. The Zembla documentary, which was based on months of research, brought into focus two major questions regarding Bonaire's future. First, will the island continue to be powered primarily by polluting fossil fuels; or will the island continue to promote clean, renewable energy? Second, who is going to decide?

This is not entirely an either-or debate between conservation vs. pollution. Bonaire is absolutely dependent on hydrocarbons in the shorter term, and its petroleum fuel supply is vulnerable. Previously the Contour Global power plant burned fuel delivered by ship to Bopec. Now the island's electrical service depends on fuel trucked to the power plant from the fuel dock at the airport, as does the water distillation plant at WEB. That is a thin thread.

Therefore BBT seemed like a good idea initially. But public uneasiness grew as BBT began to float suggestions. BBT had two projects in mind. It would build a large fuel storage facility at the airport and construct a fuel pier for filling those tanks. BBT also intended to build a smaller storage facility at the Contour Global power plant near Karpata and build a fuel pier there, one that would extend into the marine reserve. That proposal was unpopular and short-lived.

The Zembla documentary focused on the island's opposition to the BBT pier that would damage the coral growing off the airport. Zembla quoted Edison Rijna declaring that there will be no pier as long as he is Lieutenant Governor. "The Executive Council is not against BBT per se," Rijna said. "We recognize the need to make a safe provision for the supply of fuel in the coming years, but with the caveat that the size of the provision must be ... adapted to the declining demand for fossil fuels." The Executive Council has urged Minister Rob Jetten (Climate and Energy) not to involve BBT in WEB's project.

Only hours before the Zembla broadcast, BBT issued a press release declaring it was making a strong commitment to helping create a more sustainable energy supply for Bonaire, and was making plans for working with WEB and Contour Global to achieve that goal. Deep in the press release BBT also announced it had decided it no longer needed a fuel pier at the airport. It would just construct additional fuel storage capacity there. *DMR*

Conservation Bonaire, Echo, PiskaBon and the World Wildlife Fund, to build a future office building. The building will also be intended to have a public function, as yet undecided. Possible attractions include a wet lab that demonstrates how coral is cultivated, an aquarium, or a visitor center where workshops and exhibitions may be held. The feasibility of this part of the project is still being worked on." *DMR*

Covid-19 round-up

The Omicron danger seems to be passing. Epidemiologists say that by now most people have likely contracted the highly virulent variant, even those who showed no symptoms and never tested positive.

Covid cases have dropped dramatically since the previous issue of *The Reporter*. In the last 14 days, the number of active cases went from 147 to 20. Ten days ago one person was hospitalized. This week there are none.

Many restrictions have been eased, even though masks must still be worn indoors. Catering establishments and casinos can stay open until 2 am. Events are allowed with 100 people, and they may sing and dance if outside. Masses and services in churches are allowed, as is singing. People may again play sports inside and outside without restrictions. The advice that people work at home has been withdrawn. Infected people are allowed to leave quarantine after five full days without complaints. *DMR*

This Issue's Stories

Manta Rays in Bonaire?	1
Covid roundup	2
Doner Station	3
Vets dental drill	4
Bolivia Design Co. press release	5
Sea turtle in Mexico	6
STINAPA transplants corals from Karel's	6
Building permits expire	7
Kids' Karnaval	11
Ron Foster diving all sites	13
Bon Doet ON list	13
IT Academy/MBO/ROC Mondriaan/SSO	15
IT training	15
Carpinteria Funrace	15
BonaireScuba	16

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

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam:	2
Zembla investigation Bonaire Fuel Terminals; Citizen Service Numbers for students; Park at old Sunset Beach	
Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Police Report	4
Ask Kate & Jean (Condo use)	4
Letters/Opinions (Bolivia)	5
A Garden? (Garden friends)	7
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Make Bonaire Accessible (Purple pipe dream)	10
Creating Optimal Health (Eat mindfully)	10
Parrots & People (Conservation classes)	10
Cruise ship ratings (Costa Deliziosa)	10
Reef Glimpses: (Banded coral shrimp)	11
What's Happening (Courses: Geology, construction, MBO IT & HORECA; Raking sargassum)	12
Live Inspired: Changing thinking	13
Poem: Worst Day	13
Business Directory	14
Shelter (Boarding pets)	15
Pets of the Week (Uziah cat; Bounty dog)	15

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Parliament cuts red tape for students

Caribbean students in the European Netherlands, including those from the BES islands, do not have a Citizen Service Number (BSN). Therefore they cannot open bank accounts or apply for the DigiD (digital idea number) needed to access government services. They even have difficulties registering at their educational institutions. (A BSN is the equivalent of a Social Security number in the U.S. or a Social Insurance Number in Canada.)

When this issue was raised in the House of Representatives, a very large majority approved a motion instructing that a BSN be allocated immediately and unconditionally to all Caribbean students in the European Netherlands. The legislation also stipulated that a bureaucratic mechanism be created as soon as possible to provide a BSN to all citizens in the BES islands. Parliament stipulated that the enabling legislation for both actions could be written and passed later. *DMR (Dossier Koninkrijks Relaties)*

Park to provide public access to old Sunset Beach

As long promised, the Bonaire public will be assured access to the beach of the old Sunset Beach Resort, according to a press release. The government is going to build a public park on the narrow strip of vacant land remaining at the north end. In addition to beach access, the park will include a restaurant and three kiosks, a boat ramp, play equipment and waterworks for children, fitness equipment, and family barbecue facilities.

There will also be a place reserved for the conservation organizations, including Reef Renewal Bonaire, Stinapa, Sea Turtle Page 2

Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of March 1, 2022

20 active 6933 total	0 hospitalized 28 deceased
Over 86% have had 1st vaccination	

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

Turkish style food that is fast and good



Doner Station employee Moroccan born Abdelali Elahrach prepares a Doner bread order.
Photo Julie Morgan

Looking for fast food that isn't the normal burger, pastechi or pizza? Then how about some Merguez, Kofke, Falafel, Kapsalon or Baklava topped off with an Ayrar drink? These are just a few of the menu items available at the Turkish style Dutch concept cafes Fresh Market and Doner Station.

Fresh Market opened in Nov. 2014, despite the trepidation of owners, Stephanie Booi and husband Said el Kaich. Introducing Turkish food to Bonaire was a bit of a gamble. Stephanie's dad tried to sway the couple to do something more conventional by offering Bonairean type food such as cabrito and funchi.

Stephanie said, "But we convinced him to do the Doner type food from the Netherlands."

Originally from Bonaire, Stephanie met Moroccan born marketing student, Said, while studying interior design in the Netherlands. They moved to Bonaire eight years ago and set to work in creating the restaurants though neither of them had a restaurant background.

Said returned to the Netherlands to educate himself for the new venture. He trained for a month with a Turkish man in a shawarma shop. Said learned how to make the shawarma (stacked cone shaped meat for rotisserie), sauces, pita and how it all comes together.

Traditionally the shawarma meat is either lamb, beef or chicken. To deliver great fast food, the couple went to work to find the best quality meats. Due to cost and availability,

they decided the shawarma meat for the Doner (turning kabob) should be chicken. In addition to the Doner, they found high quality meats for their Merguez (lamb sausage) and Kofke (beef meatballs).

"We bring in our own vegetables from Holland, because quality is the most important thing. Everything is from Holland. And we use Gouda cheese for the Turkish-Dutch concept," said Stephanie.

The falafel (ground chickpeas and spices) is freshly made.

Fresh Market was almost an immediate success with the locals. Building on that momentum, the couple decided to expand and opened Doner Station in Dec. 2017 in Hato.

Stephanie says the most popular item on the menu is Kapsalon (hair salon). It is a combination of layered French fries, doner meat covered with Gouda cheese and salad veggies. If you are wondering about that name, The story goes that a Rotterdam hairdresser in 2003 at a shawarma store would constantly order a combination of ingre-

dients in one dish. His order combination caught on and the dish became known as Kapsalon.

Doner Station and Fresh Market employ 10 people including managers Mazen Akkari and Marjou van Putten who keep things running smoothly. No alcohol is served due to the owner's Muslim faith but there are plenty of other drinks including the Turkish Ayrar. And if you still want that fast food pizza, you can order a Turkish Doner one.

Fresh Market is located in the green container across from Selibon and is open Mon-Friday 11am - 7p and Sat 11a.m - 4 pm. Doner Station in Hato, is in the shopping center near the roundabout. Hours are Mon - Sat 11am - 10 p and Sun 12 a.m - 8 pm for dine-in or take out.

To see the complete menu go to the Doner Station/Fresh Market Facebook page. Deliveries are available through Dinner in a Box. Orders can be made through WhatsApp: Doner +599-787-4100 / Fresh Market +599-782-8106. *Julie Morgan*



Doner Bread is a warm pita stuffed with Doner Kabob chicken, a homemade garlic sauce and fresh veggies.

FOR SALE Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot 1 Commercial Building Lot



- Located in Kralendijk, on the main road of Bonaire, offering lots of exposure, steps away from the ocean
- Approved building permit available for the construction of 6 apartments with a free-standing office
- Lot size 561 m2 / 6038 sq. ft. - Zoning plan = Gemengd I



Asking price \$469,000 US Dollar

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

POLICE REPORT

The new anonymous tip line is 9310

Property crime

Feb. 28. In the night hours thieves took a bag with contents from a car parked in a garden in Nikiboko.

Feb. 27. Around 3:05 am, an attempted robbery took place at a house located on Kaya Nikiboko South. An unknown man dressed in black assaulted the woman with a knife. He was not able to take anything away.

Feb. 24. An apartment of a tourist accommodation in Belnem was broken into during the night. Thieves took a handbag with contents and a laptop while the victims were sleeping.

Feb. 23. In the night hours thieves broke into a house in Belnem stealing several electronic devices such as laptops, iPad, camera, diving light and diving watch.

Feb. 22. Between 4:30 and 5:55 pm, at the Margate Bay dive site, thieves smashed the window of the rental car with a coral stone and took two bags with their contents.

Feb. 21-22. A red and white Sym scooter was taken away in the night. It was parked on the Kaya Bonaire and was not locked.

Feb. 19. Around 3:35 am, a scooter owner saw two persons running away with his scooter. The police searched the area and arrested the two minor suspects for theft. The stolen scooter was found and brought to the police station.

Feb. 18. Around 9:30 am, the police station received a report of theft from a hotel room near Sorobon. A bag with Bose headphones and three iPhones was stolen. The bag was later found without the three iPhones.

Feb. 17. Thieves broke into a house in the Chefi district during the night and stole, among other things, the car (a black Trailblazer B9561). They also took keys to the house, jerry cans with petrol and diving equipment.

Feb. 17. A green La Souris City scooter 49.9 CC with registration number MF-1893 was stolen from the yard of an apartment building on Kaya Embira between 12:10 and 7 am. The scooter was locked with a chain lock.

Feb. 16. Between 10 pm Wednesday and 6 am Thursday, a women's Unit Venura bicycle was stolen from the yard of a house. The bike was locked.

Feb. 16. Between Wednesday and Thursday two mountain bikes were stolen from Kaya Inglaterra.

Feb. 15. Around 4:25 pm, a black backpack containing, among other things, a camera, bath towel, water shoes and an umbrella was stolen from Kaya C. E. B. Hellmund near Chachacha Beach.

Feb. 14. Between 9:30 and 10:00 pm thieves took the wing mirror of a rental car parked outside Flamingo Airport.

Feb. 13. Two scooters were stolen between 2:15 and 9:15 am; a white Peugeot scooter with registration number MF-2436 and a black Sym scooter with registration number MF-174. The scooters were both locked with a chain lock in front of the terrace / veranda of an apartment complex on Kaya Ganimedes.

Feb. 12. Between 1 and 2 pm, at the Angel City dive site located on E. E. G. Bulevar, thieves took a black bag with spare diving gear, a black bag with contents and a small cooler bag with a red drinking bottle from an unlocked parked car.

Feb. 12. Between Friday around 7:10 pm and Saturday, around 5:35 am, thieves took alcohol and cigarettes from a company on Kaya JC van de Ree.

Arrested/held in custody.

Feb. 27. Around 11 pm, the police received an eyewitness report of an assault between a man and a woman who then drove off in a car which hit a lamppost bringing electrical cables to the ground. Shortly afterwards, the police arrested the man, 23, who resisted violently. The man has been arrested for assault, failure to comply with an official order, threats and violence against police officers and assaulting an official in office.

Feb. 27. Around 7:55 pm a man, 40, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Feb. 27. At approximately 5:35 pm, two 19-year-old women were arrested for attempted theft in a supermarket located at Kaya Industria. The suspects tried to take bottles of alcohol from the supermarket by putting them in their bags. The women had already taken two bottles of alcohol from the supermarket the previous Friday.

Feb. 25. A report of a stabbing incident near a hotel on the Bulevar Julio A Abraham was received around 7:04 pm. The victim immediately went to the emergency room. Later that evening, three arrests were made: two men, aged 20 and 29, and a woman, 21.

Feb. 18. Around 5 pm, a man, 50, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Feb. 16. A woman, 50, was arrested for trespassing. The suspect was selling stolen/taken goods.

Feb. 14. A woman, 25, was arrested for public assault.

Traffic accidents/violations

Feb. 21. The driver of a van hit a lamp post and the van ended up on its side at Kaya International near the airport. The driver sustained an abrasion to his upper arm and was treated at the scene by paramedics. A tow truck moved the van.

Feb. 18. Around 1 am, a Hit and Run took place at Kaya G. F. Croes. A vehicle collided with a parked vehicle and then continued to drive.

Feb. 15. Around 9:05 am, on Kaya Korona the driver of one car became unwell causing a collision involving two other cars. The victim was taken to hospital for medical treatment. The cars were towed by tow trucks. The police, traffic police and CRS were on site.

Feb. 13. Around 4:50 am, a car overturned on E. E.G. Bulevar. The driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol and was treated at the scene by paramedics for head injuries. The car has been declared a total loss.

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

Is it true that there are some condos that I can't live in full time or even for six months if I buy one? How much time can I stay there? Lyle

Hi Lyle,

There are two considerations, the zoning and the HOA/VVE (homeowners association.)

Some properties may be in an area zoned recreational, which is not intended for full time residency. Even if a property is not zoned this way, some HOAs have limits as to how many weeks per year owners may use their units, and how many weeks the unit must be available for rental. This can vary widely. Some homeowner associations permit a limited number of owner occupied weeks per

and was treated at the scene by paramedics for head injuries. The car has been declared a total loss.

Feb. 13. Around 5:10 am, the police gave a stop sign to a vehicle. The driver ignored the stop sign and then hit a WEB lamp post at a speed of 140 kilometers per hour. The car flipped over. The police confirmed the driver was feeling no pain as a result of the collision and was arrested for, among other things, driving under the influence.

Feb. 11. Around 2:25 pm a Hit and Run took place on Kaya Amsterdam. A scooter driver was hit when he was trying to overtake a bicycle and was overtaken by a car at the same time. During the failed overtaking maneuver, the car hit the driver on the scooter, after which the scooter collided with the bicycle. The car drove on. The driver of the scooter suffered abrasions. There was also material damage to the scooter and bicycle as a result of this Hit and Run.

Feb. 11. Around 3:45 am, a single vehicle collision took place on Boulevard Gob. Nicholas Debrot. The driver fell from her scooter and suffered head injuries. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Traffic control

Feb. 15. Three fines were issued on Kaya Nikiboko Noord, Kaya Chi ku cha and Kaya Korona for, among other things, not having a valid insurance policy and



L-R: Jean and Kate

year, others allow a number of months, and still others have no owner usage restrictions. When you are looking at a property that is zoned recreational or has HOA owner usage requirements, review the information carefully to make sure that it fits with the amount of time you want to use your place.

*Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team
Re/Max Bonaire*

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

for calling while driving.

Public order

Feb. 22. In the afternoon an employee fell from the second floor while plastering the exterior of a building and was taken to hospital by paramedics for medical treatment. The Labor Inspectorate has been informed.

Feb. 21. Around 1:15 am, a gentleman came to the police station to report that someone was vandalizing several planters on Kaya Grandi. The police found the damage, but did not find the man responsible.

Feb. 15. Around 12 noon, the police station received a report of an industrial accident at an organization located at Kaya Mendelsson. The victim fell from a stair/ladder while working on the roof. Witnesses told the police that they saw the stair/ladder slide off the floor as the victim ascended it. The victim suffered a head injury and was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The Labor Inspectorate has been informed.

Feb. 12. Around 11:35 pm, the police station received a report of a beer bottle fight at a bar/restaurant near Nikiboko. Two people were injured. Those involved in this fight did not want to explain anything about the fight to the police. No report has been filed

Did you see anything suspicious? Call 911 or 717 8000 or the anonymous tip line 9310.

Dental drill fundraiser for pet clinic continues

Update on Flamingo Veterinary Clinic dental drill fundraiser and purchase.

Currently we have about \$2500 BUT PayPal has blocked the Flamingo Vet Clinic account for donations with about \$1000 in it and are not being responsive as to when the funds will be available.

So, while we are over 50% of the amount required, we really only have about 30% spendable at this time.

People can still donate by dropping of cash at the clinic, or email dentaildrill@brianniessen.com for bank transfer instructions, or to arrange a pickup donations@curocorp.com

The vets have said that they noticed here on Bonaire a lot of dental issues with the cats and dogs, and once the equipment is here, it can be used to clean teeth, make fillings, and other 'deeper' operations.

Thanks for all the support we have received so far. The critters will appreciate it. (There is already a waiting list of pets for dental work.)

Brian Niessen

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 a mirage

In the form of a press release, a new text by the Breemhaar family appeared to convince us of their good intentions in the development of Plantation Bolivia. Again it is a text developed by a communication agency with the name above it of a design agency. And again it is a changed vision. If we remember correctly, this is the sixth change of plans in the past two years. That promises something for the next 23 years, because that is the duration of the plans. And again, the current press release is teeming with ambiguities.

For example, there is talk of a significant proportion of affordable housing. Again, vagueness trumps because how much is significant and what is affordable?

Completely new is the announcement that clusters of estates will be added next to affordable housing. Estates are plots



with an area of at least 5 ha. So there are several of them. But again: how many clusters with how many homes?

When reading very carefully, a sneaky thing also stands out. The houses in those clusters of estates 'together only cover 3% of the area'. That's right! 3%

Press release from KuiperCompagnons (22-02-2022)

Renowned design agency involved in Bolivia Estate

For the sustainable redevelopment of the former Plantation Bolivia, Bonaire Properties (owner of the Estate) has commissioned the renowned urban design and architectural agency KuiperCompagnons from Rotterdam. The company's expertise in developing urban and landscapes visions in the Netherlands and abroad goes back more than 100 years.

Sustainable

KuiperCompagnons as a urban design agency is highly regarded world wide and is involved in numerous prestigious projects (see: <https://www.kuipercompagnons.nl/nl/projecten/>). "The task to develop a sustainable future for Bolivia coincides fluently with the themes that we concern ourselves with as professionals. For this project, we want to contribute to the future of the Bonairean society with our knowledge and attention," says Wouter Vos, landscape architect and Director of Internation Operations with KuiperCompagnons.

"Next to the opportunities we see for the recovery of this valuable area, our plan, with a considerable amount of affordable housing, also contributes to a better balance on the housing market. The plan increases the self-sufficiency of the island by integrating agriculture and horticulture, it creates jobs and it prevents further erosion of the soil and runoff into the sea, damaging reefs and corals."

Third district

The management of the development of the future Bolivia Estate is in the hands of Metafoor Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling, an agency that is commissioned by many municipalities in the European Netherlands to assist in, among other things, process management and the development of urban areas.

Metafoor-director Erik Berkelmans said, "Because of the rapid population

growth on the Island, the quality of the environment is under pressure. With this opportunity to develop Bolivia as a 'landscape park', unguided sprawl of Kralendijk can be prevented. In and around Playa, the effects of these are already palpable in daily life, for example in traffic. If you want to relieve pressure on Kralendijk and give Rincon a perspective for the future, a third district is needed. All things considered, Bolivia is the sustainable solution to a resilient and sustainable Bonaire."

Recovery of nature

The redevelopment of the former Plantation Bolivia is from a perspective of urban and landscape planning a formidable opportunity. The area has a grand cultural-historical and scenic value, in danger of going to waste. The development of the area into a landscape park leads, with an integral approach, to attention for recovery of nature, for living, and for working. Three clusters of estates will be situated within the landscape park, that will be built in different stages unto 2045, and that together will have a footprint of only three per cent of the entire Bolivia area. These clusters will have a high degree of self sufficiency.

Because the development will be integrated in the landscape, the area will keep its characteristics. Over 85% remains open landscape. To enhance the recovery of flora and fauna, the park will be managed centrally. Already in the first stage, park management will make sure that management and maintenance of this unique area is secured.

Letter of intent

Last week, the Executive council of Bonaire and the board of Bonaire Properties both signed a letter of intent. A presentation of the plans to the Island Council will soon follow.

Questions to:
info@landgoedbolivia.nl

of 3,000 hectares is 90 hectares. 90 hectares is 900,000 m2. Suppose the houses on the estates are extremely large and are each 500 m2 in size. Then we come to 1,800 homes of 500 m2!! Or is there perhaps a mistake in the wording?

Once again it appears that the Breemhaaren and the design bureau are unfamiliar with the conditions on Bonaire when it comes to agricultural and horticultural development. That's not so strange either. Breemhaar has only known Bonaire for a few years and the design agency does business in China and Russia! We would now finally like to read from them how they want to develop the initiatives for agriculture and horticulture and what the residents have done wrong over the past 150 years.

An entirely new invention in the plan is that of the third development zone. Breemhaar wants to offer Rincon a future perspective with this. What does that future perspective look like and how will it be developed? Again, vagueness trumps. And probably an empty promise. Bonaire made a completely different choice in 2010 in the Spatial Development Plan (SMB): for building in and adding to existing residential areas. This

* See also <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4tM2ZwSTxQ>.

A landscape park with 1500 homes?

On February 22, 2022, Bonaire Properties, ("Breemhaars") announced, by press release, that it had retained Kuipers Compagnons ("Kuiper") and Metafoor Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling ("Metafoor"), two Dutch firms, to design, develop and manage the development of Plantation Bolivia.

As a general matter, I find it odd that the Breemhaars have taken this step when they do not yet have a permit to develop Plantation Bolivia. Are we to read between the lines that the Bonaire Government has already given the Breemhaars the "go ahead" to proceed with development and that a permit is only a matter of time? If the Breemhaar's don't have the government "go ahead", it seems that they are wasting money. But then, that's their business.

Back to the release. It touts the fact that each firm is highly regarded, known world-wide and has years of experience. However, there is no mention whether either firm knows anything about Bonaire or whether representatives from either firm have ever even been to Bonaire. This lack of information is troublesome.

Unfortunately, the rest of the release strongly supports the assumption that neither firm has any knowledge of Plantation Bolivia's history and/or its present state nor has visited the site. The first sentence of the release begins: "For the sustainable redevelopment of the former Plantation Bolivia..." (Emphasis

SMB plan shows that there is room for more than 4,000 homes without unnecessarily affecting nature. The development of Bolivia is therefore not necessary at all. *

It is naive to think that Breemhaar wants to develop Bolivia to do good. Doing good will not get you into the Quote 500 (the 500 richest people of Holland). What Breemhaar is really about is money. Dollars that will be earned with the destruction of nature on Bolivia. Former plans and this press release indicate that Bolivia will be parceled out by the owner and that third parties will develop the area. The profits that will be made in this way will end up in bank accounts of Dutch and Americans. They really don't stay on Bonaire.

The project development has been put in the hands of a firm called 'Metaphor' by Breemhaar. A metaphor is an image for something else. The plans as presented again are a metaphor for a mirage, a fata morgana.

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia

NOTE: The design firm's press release can be seen on this page.

added.) Plantation Bolivia has never been developed. There is absolutely no evidence to even suggest this. On what basis are the Breemhaars asserting that Bolivia has been developed in the past? Why do the Breemhaars want to perpetuate this absurd falsehood?

Specific remarks attributed to their consultants are even more frightful. Mr. Wouter Vos, a member of the Kuiper firm, is quoted as saying that his firm will have the opportunity to "recover" Bolivia. Does Mr. Vos understand that a pristine natural area that has not been touched in over a hundred years, doesn't require "recovery."

Remarks attributed to Mr. Erik Berkelmans, a Metafoor director, are no better. Mr. Berkelmans is quoted as saying that his firm "will have the opportunity to develop Bolivia as a 'landscape park.'" Does Mr. Berkelmans know that a "landscape park", by definition, does not have 1500 homes? Does he know that the Breemhaars are planning to build 1500 homes in Plantation Bolivia? What have the Breemhaars actually told his firm about their plans for Bolivia?

I always thought that the purpose of a press release was to share accurate information with the press and the public. If this is true, then the February 22, 2022 press release has failed miserably. Further, if the February 2, 2022 press release is any indication of the effort that the Breemhaars and the two firms intend to put into the design, development and management of Plantation Bolivia, Bonaire is in big trouble.

Ann Joseph

Visit us!



Bonaire's sea turtle is in Mexico!

A sea turtle that Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) tagged in Lac Bay in 2013 laid three nests in Mexico in 2021. As part of STCB's capture-mark-recapture program, approximately 200-300 turtles per year are tagged. Smaller turtles receive a PIT tag, a tracking tag that does not require power. Instead, it has an internal microchip that is activated when it passes close to a special antenna connected to a computer that records the identity of the tag and the time. Larger turtles are tagged with either one or two metal tags. These tags contain unique number combinations, so that when a turtle is recaptured or spotted, we can retrieve capture data from this specific turtle, including where and

when it was tagged, its size and weight.

Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México, A.C., an organization that carries out night monitoring patrols as part of a program called 'Programa de Conservacion de Tortugas Marinas Riviera Maya-Tulum', spotted a green turtle on the night of July 9th, 2021. This turtle had a metal tag on its right front flipper and when they checked the number, they realized it was a turtle from Bonaire. The turtle had been tagged in Lac Bay in April 2013. At the time, she weighed 79kg and her carapace measured 79.5cm. In July and August 2021, she nested three times at Xcacel Beach, Mexico. How awesome!!

STCB Communications



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What is the truth about building permits?

1

The Bonaire Reporter has been trying to understand Bonaire's laws controlling building and construction permits. The idea that a permit 30 years or even 10 years old is still viable is in question. We found that according to Island Regulations, the government can revoke permits issued before 2010 and all the way back to 1961.

In our May 19 – June 2, 2021 edition we addressed the issue of Chogogo and the old Sunset Beach property in the context of the new spatial development plan and permits. Roland Bruijnesteijn, Policy Advisor for Spatial Planning (Beleidsadviseur Ruimtelijke Ordening) told us then that they were considering putting a time limit on the start of construction once a permit is granted. But that time restriction could affect the plot owner's right and land price. Therefore, it could only apply to future permits.

In our Dec 8 – Dec 22 edition, correspondents questioned a building permit issued for land that was entirely within the Sorobon Ramsar site. Could an old permit that had allowed a structure to be built in 2007 in the same plotted area of agriculture/ kunuku zoned land be used as a precedent for a new permit for building?

Our Jan 19 – Feb 2 edition reported on the new pier approval for Karel's Beach Bar which was based on an old 1989 permit that was believed could never expire.

When *The Reporter* researched these stories, we understood spokespeople for



the Bonaire government to say that building on old permits is allowed with some outlined considerations and that 'old permits are still good.'

Bruijnesteijn has helped us clarify the legalities as have Wilma Nijland and Ann Joseph through their letters to the editor and opinion pieces.

Wilma supplied us with the following information from the Public Housing, Spatial Planning and Environmental Management Act BES which is valid from July 2021 to now. But, this law is actually an act from Dec 2011.

Article 2.12

1., the Executive Council MAY REVOKE the building permit in whole or in part:

- a. if it appears that the Executive Council has granted the permit on the basis of an incorrect or incomplete statement;
- b. if the construction work has not started within one year after the permit has become irrevocable;
- c. if the construction work has been stopped for more than six months after it has started;

d. if the building is not completed within three years after the permit has become irrevocable;

e. at the request of the licensee.

After checking with the legal department of Bonaire Spatial Planning and Development, Roland said it was possible to revoke permits before 2010 under Island Regulations from 1961.

Article 29.

1. The Executive Council is authorized to revoke a building permit granted by reasoned decision, if:

- a. within one year of the day on which the building permit was granted, the work has not yet started or if the work has been suspended for a year;
- b. when performing the work to which the building permit relates, the regulations laid down by or pursuant to this regulation are deviated from.

2. A decision to withdraw will not be taken until the interested party – if his domicile or residence is known – has been heard or at least duly summoned.

3. If the term for a decision to withdraw

a building permit has expired, a new building permit must be applied for if the interested party still wishes to carry out or continue the proposed work. In such a case, the documents and drawings belonging to the withdrawn building permit will be used again.

After digging a bit deeper we discovered that nowhere on a stamped building permit does it give a date for completion. There is nothing that says you have one year to begin construction. It does state you must notify the office when construction begins or ends. The only date on the document is the date of issuance of the permit.

Bruijnstein said, "It appears we seldom if ever use this power... it may be because it is considered a somewhat heavy-handed approach to take back a permit once it has been granted... A building permit that was granted was sometimes more a form of 'estate planning' in the literal sense of the word, than any proof of intent to build soon. It used to be so quiet on the island that it did not really matter if a particular permit was used or not. And I do not know how well permits, once granted were monitored during the course of time.

Thanks to Roland Bruijnesteijn, Wilma Nijland and Ann Joseph for their information and cooperation.

Julie Morgan



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Garden friends

1

Garden friends, it's so nice to have them. From all over the place I get stories, recipes, vegetables, fruits, plants, seeds, manure and cuttings. Sometimes I even receive a fresh fish and also cooked food. And oh yes, I also get a hand in gardening, digging holes for big plants, cleaning, trimming trees, all that stuff. Of course, it goes the other way round too. It's not every day but it's often, that gardeners meet each other and share their ideas.

Last week one of my garden friends brought me a big bunch of string beans with the message, "Angliet, when you prepare food with this I'll come to eat too." So, I had no choice, but to take it or leave it and I agreed with the condition. (Ha ha)

I organized a dinner for five friends and I cooked all day, but the evening was great. It was so nice as everybody came with something, like a starter, wine, dessert or chocolate.

The next day another friend came with a big, fresh fish he caught the night before. I took that fish to a friend who has a BBQ and that was a great meal together with some other nice stuff. During dinner

a lot of garden stuff came up. We focused on the difficulties of gardening on Bonaire in a nice practical way and learned from each other.

Another friend came by this week with a plant that grows in her yard, asking if I knew what it was. When I saw the seeds, it reminded me of my childhood in Surinam. I used to make chains and decorated things with the seeds because they are red and black in color. I found out later that the seeds are one of the most poisonous in the world. The plant is called *Abrus Precatorius*. It grows like a vine and has purple flowers. Google it for more info.

In Surinam we call it kokritjie. So needless to say, my friend removed the plant from her yard immediately. So be careful if you find it growing in your yard.

Another story

I have iguanas on my roof and I hate it. They make a lot of noise and I don't know how to get rid of them. My local string bean friend said that locals make a big wire ball from fishing line with some green plants in it and put it on the roof.

When the iguana gets into the wire ball, he gets hooked and that is how you get him. Maybe this will help you out too.

A helping hand from my neighbor this week.

I have a tree that takes up so much space that it is a danger to my house. It needs to be cut back because it is tall with big branches. My neighbor is going to saw most of it so only the trunk will be left. Another friend helped me to trim it and he was happy with the small leaves he could add to his plant compost, so it wasn't a waste. But, with pruning the tree, it grew even faster and bigger with a lot more stems so it needs to be cut down.

And oh yes, I also got the most delicious mispels growing in my neighbor's yard. Of course, the loras were hunting them too, and one morning most all the mispels were on the ground. We put the almost ripe mispels in brown bags where they ripened and became very sweet.

Last, but not least, an update on young fruits growing now: mango, tamarind, papaya, bacoba, coconuts, starfruit and appledam. Keep an eye on your fruit and put brown bags around them to protect them from the loras.

So, care and share, that makes gardening so fun and cool. Just do it.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained first as a teacher, then



Beans for dinner tonight from my garden friend

in *Alternative Healing*. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



BON DOET

on March 11 & 12 2022

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By joining forces, a lot of projects get done in little time and the synergy that is created between organizations and volunteers is of great value for the island.

Oranje Fonds is the fund that makes not only **BON DOET** possible, but all the "DOET" events in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As a social fund, they enable organizations to organize projects with a budget and finance these if they comply with the goal of the event. The promotion around these "DOET" events contribute to the awareness of the importance of volunteer work on the island.



This year, Bonaire celebrates the 12th edition of **BON DOET** and the participation is grand! Social organizations participate by registering their project, volunteers participate by choosing one of these projects to execute and businesses show corporate social responsibility by either volunteering with a group of colleagues or by sponsoring extra materials needed.



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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

A purple pipe-dream...

Following Anthony's diagnosis and a few weeks in the hospital with all the help he needed lying down, it was decided he needed to become more active.

He was not a large, heavy man, but when you had to lift him or turn him, he was very heavy. It was hard on the nurses. It was also time to see if he was a patient who could revalidate properly.

That is when she came into our lives, "Sara", a wonderful purple colored lifting device. Sara was created to lift ailing patients and to make the job of all nurses and aides a little lighter. When Sara was used, all backpain and arthrosis seemed

to disappear.

Sara came with a vest the patients would wear. On the "vest" were hooks attached and some openings in strategic places. One nurse or aid could put the vest on a patient easily and close it safely. Then Sara was rolled in and her arms were attached to the hooks and openings of the vest. With a remote control the patient was lifted out of the bed and seated in a wheelchair in a jiffy.

After a week of working with Sara, Anthony could even help a bit with one hand to get up once he had the vest on. So Anthony always did his very best to

get out of bed and into his wheelchair. I also fell in love with Sara and exclaimed that once Anthony came home from the hospital, I would apply for a Sara.

But he did not go home. While in the hospital his revalidation specialist had talks with me and the therapists. They decided although Anthony was very handicapped, he would be revalidated. Within eight weeks we were sent to Revalidatie Friesland in Beetsterzwaag in an ambulance. This center was famous for their therapy, therapists, specialists and results.

The first thing Anthony had to do was to learn how to get out of bed, with and without help. He felt very helpless and even begged for his favorite purple lifting device. But, NO, no Sara here! He was here to learn everything again and Sara did not fit into that program. Very disappointed, but also very driven to get out of that bed by himself, Anthony worked

very, very hard. And within a few months he was able to get up to a sitting position in his bed, grab the "parrot" with the one hand that functioned, push his lame leg out of bed with his good leg and sit at the edge of the bed. His cane was waiting for him on that side and once Anthony had the cane in his hand, he could stand, turn a bit and sit in his wheelchair. He was so very proud!

But sometimes when we were alone and I had to help, he whispered: "Sara."

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

Mindful eating

Eating allows us to stay alive by renewing our tissues with the new materials that enter our body. For humans food has also acquired symbolic meaning. Today eating is a source of pleasure, an excuse to get together with friends, a marker of status or a reward. I am not going to write today about what we eat, but the way we do it.

For all the above, it is important to know how to generate a state of awareness when we eat. What does this mean? Should we chew 50 times each bite? Or should we be absolutely silent savoring every particle of food that enters our system? Or should we eat all the time while practicing mindfulness? But that doesn't

seem to be practical, possible nor necessary.

Mindful eating involves first being aware of how lucky we are to have a plate of food on the table. Many people, regardless of their creed, practice gratitude before starting to eat, either with a shared statement or with a private and personal thought.

Being mindful when eating also aims to recover the original purpose for eating, as a mechanism of survival and replenishment of nutrients for the body. In this sense we should be able to ask ourselves if we are going to eat because we need to or if we are responding to one of the other symbolic meanings that food has.

It does not mean that the other motivations are necessarily good or bad, but it is important to be aware of them. This is even more important for people struggling with being overweight. Generating awareness of the existence or absence of appetite will help to reduce the intake.

Eating is also a source of sensory pleasure. When that dish delights and satisfies the vision, the taste and the smell, it is providing a good opportunity to fully apply the practice of sensorial mindfulness. Eating can also be a way of rewarding oneself. When eating involves sharing with family and friends, it is a good practice from time to time to dedicate a couple of seconds to focus on what we put in our mouth.

For all the symbolic values that food has, there are also pathologies associated with it. Some people use either overeating or depriving themselves of food as self-punishment. Some people binge but then feel guilty and engage in purging

behaviors.

Digestion is an autonomic function and is better performed when a state of relaxation predominates, which activates the sympathetic nervous system. For this reason, it is very important to avoid eating in a hurry, stressed or during an argument or fight. If we have had an altercation with someone, it is good to pause and recover our axis before eating.

In summary, being mindful when eating is practicing gratitude, being aware of our appetite, savoring and enjoying the food we eat with all our senses and promoting a state of relaxation to favor the good reception for nutrients in our body.

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.

Parrots and People!

by Daria Taiakina



At Echo, one of our primary goals is to educate Bonaireans about local ecology, biodiversity and the importance of conservation. Ecological conservation takes an enormous amount of human labor, resources and perseverance over time. It is only with the help of Bonaire residents that we can succeed in re-establishing lost habitat and preserving local biodiversity. With this in mind, we offer several educational programs, one of which is teach-

ing Nature Conservation classes for MBO Bonaire students enrolled in the "Leisure & Hospitality Host" diploma program.

On Friday, February 18, we had 17 students from this program join Echo for a tour and lecture on our reforestation program. The students learned about Echo's mission to preserve the local Lora population (also known as the yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot), our exclusion zones for reforestation and other facets important to our reforestation efforts.

As part of the tour, each of the visiting students had the chance to plant a tree to leave a lasting positive impact on their local environment. This was the favorite part of the visit for most of the students. The students enjoyed their visit and had many follow-up questions, with some of them expressing interest in doing an internship with Echo. One of the most important components to achieving our mission is to inspire the growing young generations of Bonaireans to love and protect the local environment, and we're happy to report that we're well on the way to accomplishing this.



CRUISE SHIP RATING

Carnival Horizon and an unscheduled Costa Deliziosa, also owned by Carnival, visited Bonaire on February 23. The Horizon carried 2500 of its full capacity load of 3954. The Deliziosa had 561 passengers of a possible 3762 with crew.

The Costa ship received F ratings across the board from Friends of the Earth Environmental Report Card for 2021 for sewage treatment, air pollution reduction, water quality compliance, transparency and criminal violations, giving it a final grade of F. The entire Carnival Cruise Lines scores a Friends of the Earth rating of F but Costa has its own individual rating of F.



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Banded coral shrimp- Could they be living a lie?

“What were those little black and white shrimp with the white whiskers?” was a question that had me stymied in my first week of guiding divers on San Salvador (in the Bahamas). I’d been diving avidly in South Florida for six years, and so far I’d been able to identify every single mystery animal except this one.

Finally, the divers beckoned to me excitedly, and showed me -- a pair of banded coral shrimp. Our dives were 40’ or deeper, and the shrimp did look black and white, I guess. I see them as red and white no matter what, a kind of brain glitch where the colors get filled in when they’re not actually there.

When you see a banded coral shrimp, do you see red and white, or black and white? Or either, depending on depth?

You are seeing banded coral shrimp, right? They’re fairly common here, but they’re shy, so they hang out under ledges and in crevices, with only their white whiskers visible. Take a peek under a white-whiskered ledge, and you’re likely to see a pair of banded coral shrimp. Look more closely (being careful not to contact coral or swirl water with your

hands), and you can see their long, striped claws. If you have a light, it will show you the shrimps’ infamous stripes as red.

The red-banded coral shrimp’s scientific name is *Stenopus hispidus*, which means “straight-legged, spiny”. They live in tropical waters around the world, so if you see what looks like a banded coral shrimp in Vanuatu or Papua New Guinea, it’s probably the same species as ours. The banded coral shrimp’s attractiveness and availability gave it the dubious distinction of being one of the first creatures popular with marine aquarists.

Banded coral shrimp pairs stay together for years. When the female molts, she releases pheromones which alert her mate (or, it she doesn’t have a mate, which attract one). Her mate passes her his sperm packet; she fertilizes her eggs, and attaches them to her underside, where, during much of their development, they are turquoise in color. Since she molts every three to four weeks, and the eggs only take 16 days to hatch, the timing is right for her to mate during every molt. (Yikes!)

All those molted shells can be educational for divers, since looking at a new molt is the perfect way to get a close look at the outside of a banded coral shrimp: you’ll be able to see all the legs and feel the spiny surface of the shell itself. Finding a banded coral shrimp molt may also mean there’s a pair nearby. Each pair, especially the male, fiercely guards its territory -- roughly a meter in diameter -- from other banded coral shrimp.

Have you noticed banded coral shrimp acting as cleaners? Stories of banded coral shrimp perching on top of coral heads and waving their bodies and their whiskers to advertise for cleaning clients abound in the liter-



Every banded coral shrimp photo I looked at showed the blue of developing eggs! In this photo you can also see the shrimp’s tiny spines, her two pairs of small feeding claws, and her large defensive claws. Photo by Julie Morgan

ature, but don’t seem to be nearly as common on the reef. One reason I might not see them cleaning much is that they’re said to clean more often at night, and I don’t dive much at night. Another reason we might not see them cleaning often is that they can be very subtle about it: what’s visible might be only a fish leaning against a ledge -- but when the fish swims off, there’s a banded coral shrimp under the ledge, having been, presumably, cleaning the fish while out of sight.

There might be another reason why we don’t see banded coral shrimp cleaning very often: maybe, in fact, they don’t clean very often. The original scientific description of these critters emphasized their cleaner status,

many other writers referred back to the original, and maybe the banded coral shrimp’s status as a cleaner became fixed that way.

Or, maybe the banded coral shrimp’s white whiskers -- standard advertising equipment for cleaner shrimp -- is false advertising. Maybe banded coral shrimp, while enjoying the protection predators afford to cleaners, don’t earn that protection very often.

What do you think?

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982 and writing about her undersea experiences. Dee’s books are available for purchase through touchthesea.com.



Pelicaan School kids and staff dressed up in their favorite crazy costumes, sang and danced in their own mini Carnaval celebration on February 25. Bonaire’s normal celebration was cancelled due to covid precautions.

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The Bonaire Reporter Mar. 2 - Mar. 16, 2022

Page 11


Activities, Events & Meetings

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


Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting 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.

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays from 7:15 pm. You are welcome, whatever level you play. Contact us via phone 796 2819 or email peejeesee@gmail.com. See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.

 **Manta Monday** - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program gives a presentation at Yellow Submarine every Monday 7:30 pm.

Rincon Artisan Market is held every Saturday and Sunday (Currently 12 - 3 pm) in Rincon at Posada Para Mira.

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free public presentations are held at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8pm.

Courses

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, March 15, Thursday, March 17 and Saturday, March 19 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, only 15 spots are available.

Plenchi di Trabou training in construction for job seekers

Free training for eight job-seekers who want to work in construction, starting March 7 and lasting a month. After successfully completing the training, the participants will be directly placed with an employer. Participants will receive theoretical and practical lessons in the morning and in the afternoon they will join a construction company to gain practical experience in: bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, iron braiding, painting, plumbing, electricity and installing window frames and doors. Participants must be able to perform physically challenging work, and to read and write (Papiamentu). In consultation with their employers, people who already work in the construction industry can also participate in this training in order to be upskilled.

For questions or registration, please contact Plenchi di Trabou via info@plenchiditrabou.com, (+599) 7158346 or by visiting the office at Kaya L.D. Gerharts 12.

Training through MBO

Online IT and HORECA classes offered 24/7. Cost approximately \$25 per class. See story on page 15.

International Flights to Bonaire	
Amsterdam (AMS)	KLM connects daily through Aruba arriving Bonaire 20:50. Departure 22:05 TUI Fly direct flights will start in March 2022. Now connecting Sat through Aruba and M. W. Th. F. Sun. through Curaçao. Times vary in afternoon and evening.
Atlanta (ATL)	Delta Four weekly flights: M. W. F. Sat. Arriving 14:44. Departure 16:09 From April 10th through June Delta will have twice (2) weekly service on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
Miami (MIA)	American During March and April American will be offering daily flights to Bonaire from Miami, Florida. Arriving 14:30. Departure 15:37
Houston (IAH) & New York (EWR)	United Sat. from Houston arrive 15:53 depart 14:40. Sat from New York Newark Liberty International arrive 15:53 depart Sun. 06:03.
Toronto (YYZ & YTZ)	Pearson International (YYZ) Seven routes with one connection via: Aruba; Miami; Punta Cana; Atlanta; Curaçao, New York; Huston. Billy Bishop (YTZ) One route with one connection via New York (EWR)
Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) gives flight information on their website. February's schedule is at https://www.tourismonbonaire.com/includes/International-Flight-Schedule-Feb-2022.pdf	

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

Cultural Park 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 am-12:30 pm; 2-3:30 pm. Sat. 10 am-2:30 pm phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): Pakus is back open, regular hours 8 am-4 pm on Saturdays. Masks required indoors, social distancing.

Mondays March 7 & 14	Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program gives a presentation at Yellow Submarine every Monday 7:30 pm.
Friday March 11 Saturday March 12	BON DOET: Bonaire's national volunteer event. The largest volunteer event on Bonaire. Register a job for your non profit organization...or participate as a volunteer https://www.bondoet.com/en/
Sunday March 13	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10am Te Amo. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Wenesday March 16	Open Bonairean Championship Bridge. At Hillside in Antriol. Participants can register via the email button on the facebook page https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire . The winning pair can call themselves Bonairean Bridge champions for a year.
Sunday March 20	Fishing Line Clean Up Dive (South Pier). 9:30 am to 12 pm. Meet at the Dive Inn (Chachacha Beach). Sponsored by STCB & DFB. To register, please send an e-mail to stcb@bonaireturtles.org .
March 21 - 27	Terramar Museum. Bonaire's first Global Money Week A financial awareness campaign for youth organized by the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). Museum contacted at info@terrarmuseum.com or by sending a whatsapp to +599 7014700

Volunteering to rake sargassum

February 26 STINAPA announced that sargassum was again washing ashore on the east coast of Bonaire and was expected to come ashore every day for a week. STINAPA was urgently looking for help raking the seaweed. Volunteers may still be needed. To see if they still need your help, go to a special whatsapp group created for people to sign up:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HqdhegbwFSr9VGeOOEqMWA>.

Tentative cruise ship schedule March 2022					
DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Wednesday	03-02	Carnival Magic	0900-1700	3690	Carnival USA
Thursday	03-03	Norwegian Epic	0600-1300	4100	Norwegian
Thursday	03-03	World Voyager	0700-2359	172	Mystic
Friday	03-04	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	2894	TUI Germany
Saturday	03-05	Norwegian Dawn	0600-1230	2340	Norwegian
Sunday	03-06	Costa Deliziosa	0800-2000	2200	COSTA
Monday	03-07	AIDA Perla	0800-1800	3300	AIDA
Wednesday	03-09	Celebrity Equinox	0800-2000	2858	Celebrity
Wednesday	03-09	Emerald Princess	0800-1800	3100	Princess
Friday	03-11	ms Nieuw Statendam	0800-2300	2650	Holland America
Monday	03-14	Celebrity Silhouette	0700-1900	2886	Celebrity
Tuesday	03-15	Sirena	1300-2300	684	O.Regent
Wednesday	03-16	Enchanted Princess	1200-2000	3660	Princess
Wednesday	03-16	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830	Marella
Thursday	03-17	Freedom	0800-1600	2980	Carnival USA
Thursday	03-17	Norwegian Epic	0600-1300	4100	Norwegian



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.

Change Your Thinking...

Reflection For Today

"You are today where your thoughts have brought you. You will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you."

- James Allen

Tip For Today

"I don't feel like walking tomorrow, Chichi."

"What?!" Chichi was about to throw a fit. But then she took a deep breath, thought for a moment, and calmly asked her best friend, "Swinda, why do you think that some people are successful, and others are not?"

Many people have pondered this important question...

Is it a matter of better opportunities? Better education? Or just better luck?

There's something that all successful people have in common...how they think! Successful people think differently than unsuccessful people. It's that simple.

In 2005, the National Science Foundation published an article summarizing research on human thoughts per day. It

was found that the average person has about 12,000 to 60,000 thoughts per day. And of those thousands of thoughts, 80% were negative, and 95% were exactly the same repetitive thoughts as the day before.

Isn't that astounding?

Changing from negative to positive thinking will transform your life. But too often, this is easier said than done. Changing your thinking can be a daily and lifelong struggle, especially if you're resistant to change.

And do you know what most people's biggest challenge is when it comes to making positive personal change? Their feelings. We want to change but we don't know how to get past our emotions hurdle.

Here's what Swinda (and you too) can do to hurdle her feelings that are holding her back...

Control your thinking, control your feelings. You can control your thoughts. And your feelings come from your thoughts. So you can control your feelings by controlling your thoughts.

Remember...

When you change your thinking, you can change your feelings. When you change your feelings, you can change your actions. And when you change your actions, your life changes.

Successful people know that to do well in life, we must first think well!

Swinda remembered the beautiful sunsets we have here in Paradise (also known as Bonaire). She also thought about all the benefits exercise can provide her.

"You know Chichi, I think I'm starting to change my thinking about our Malecon Sunset Power Walk tomorrow!"

Affirmation For Today

Today I am changing my thinking, my feelings, and my actions towards a better life.

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

Worst Day Ever?

By Chanie Gorkin

*Today was the absolute worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look,
This world is a pretty evil place.
Even if
Some goodness does shine through
once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be attained
Only if one's surroundings are good.
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My attitude
It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear
me say that
Today was a very good day.*

*Now read it from bottom to top, the other way,
And see what I really feel about my day.*

Ron did how many dives?



With a little help from his friends, Ron Foster completed 121 dives on his Bonaire trip. His friends at "Dive Friends" gave him a custom T-shirt on dive number 100.

Diver Ron Foster from Calgary may have set a record or two in the history of Bonaire diving in his two month visit to Bonaire from December 20 to February 20. He arrived with the intention of diving all 69 sites listed in the Reef Smart Guide for Bonaire. Ron fulfilled that goal and went on to the next, logging 100 dives on his trip. Amazingly, he met the 100 dive goal and 21 more, adding up to 121 dives for the trip.

Ron covered the entire west coast sites, some multiple times, Washington Slagbaai Park, four on Klein plus two

trips with East Coast Divers to Lac and Sorobon.

After doing every site, Ron said his favorite is Bruce's Rappel with Bloodlet as a close second. But he also likes Tolo and La Dania's Leap and yes, he leaped.

Ron said, "The best shore diving is here. It's easy to get in and it's good diving, the best that I've ever done."

Like most divers he loves Bonaire's shore diving, but he did do six boat dives and said, "There's nothing like falling off a boat."

Ron went through six Dive Friends tank cards during his two months renting over a hundred tanks.

"I have to say, I had great support from Dive Friends. I met some amazing people while diving. Dive Friends hooked me up with people more than once. Some of the people I met will be lifelong friends," said Ron.

Ron is 70 years old and has been diving since 1969. He became a dive instructor in 2001. He is a retired truck diver and only did that part time so he could go on dive trips whenever he wanted. Ron has dived Micronesia, Cuba, Mexico, Hawaii, Roatan, Honduras, Socorro, up and down the entire west coast of the U.S. and of course, Bonaire.

Ron didn't say why he set these goals but his trip two years ago was cut short due to covid and perhaps he was trying to make up for lost dives.

Congratulations Ron!

Story and photo, Julie Morgan

Get "ON" the list to participate in Bon Doet

The 12th edition of Bon Doet, the biggest volunteer action on Bonaire is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12.

Social organizations have asked for help with 66 jobs during Bon Doet. Organizers need 607 extra volunteers to help fill the requests.

Local social organization and foundations participate in Bon Doet because it gives them the opportunity to complete some jobs and activities with extra volunteers and financial support.

On the other hand, volunteers like to participate because it gives them the opportunity to learn about an organization. The volunteers can get involved with an activity for a day or part of a day for that organization without the pressure of committing to more than that.

It is also notable that year after year Bon Doet helps generate new volunteers for local organizations. During Bon Doet volunteers get a good idea of what the organizations actually stand for. With the organization's efforts, the volunteers do good and feel good (hasi bon, pasa bon).

Volunteers are welcome to get ON the list for any of the 66 jobs for Bon Doet 2022. The Bon Doet website lists and describes all the jobs available to choose from. Invite your colleagues, friends or neighbors to participate with you and sign up now.

It's easy to sign up. Go to www.bon-doet.com and select "Volunteer", click on "Participate" and choose the job you



want to do. Fill out your name and telephone number for the job and you are ON.

If you get stuck, our Bon Doet Team 2022 is there to help you. Send an email to bondoetteam@gmail.com or call our office Monday through Friday at 785-4306 or 785-4307 from 9 am – 2 pm.

We are ON, are you?

Bon Doet is organized by the Bon Doet team and Oranje Fonds.



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Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. The Shelter is open Monday through Friday 10 am-12:30 pm and 2-3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-2:30 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

Bounty

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Bounty. I'm a female of about 1.5 years old.

I came to the shelter four months ago together with my sister Twix, who is also waiting for a new home. But, for now it's all about me. (You can also meet Twix if you come to see me, and maybe you'll fall in love with both of us.)

I'm a shy girl that likes cuddles and belly rubs. I enjoy playing with a toy or my friends at the shelter.

I do like to be around other dogs and I don't mind who they are as long as they are friendly, because I'm like that too.

But being the only dog is also fine with me; I'm very easy going.

If you think I will fit into your life, then I'm your girl.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt



Uziah

Meet our Uziah. He is the first cat in cat palace that will welcome you!

Uziah is everything you can think of that you could ever want in a cat. He is sweet, playful, loves to hug you, sit on your lap and sit next to you on your sofa. He has the most beautiful eyes and very soft fur.

Uziah was brought to the Shelter last April along with his two little brothers. They were 6 weeks old. The two brothers were adopted and now it's Uziah's turn to find a loving home. Uziah is one year old, has had all his vaccinations and is chipped. So he is ready to go home.

Story Monique Degenaar

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



Shelter News

PLAN YOUR PETS SHELTER BOARDING EARLY

It's only March but you are probably already planning your summer vacation. Don't forget to plan for your pet's "vacation" too! It's time to start planning ahead if you want to board your dog or cat during the summer months. Many reservations have already been made and our boarding space is limited. Please make your reservation now! Call or Whatsapp 701-4989 or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com for availability.

When you bring your pets to board at Animal Shelter Bonaire they must be up to date with vaccinations, and recently treated against fleas and ticks. They should also be sterilized. Arrangements can be made to have your pet sterilized for free while they are boarding with us. We will also need the name of your

veterinarian in case of an emergency or should your animal get sick while boarding. When boarding cats, the owners may have the option of choosing between an individual kennel for their cat, or if it's a sociable cat, joining other boarding cats in a larger communal setting. Whether it's a dog or cat, please make your pet's vacation plans with us now to be sure we can accommodate you.

Story: Jane Disko



Preparing for a future in IT



Working innovatively together to modernize MBO Bonaire and ROC Mondriaan in The Hague IT courses. L-R: Rick Bleeker, CSR Manager Europe North-Cisco; Lute Berends, SSO/CN dept. head; Nolly Oleana, OCW head Carib. Neth; Liset de Keijzer, director MBO Bonaire; Sebastiaan Bliemert, director iCt Roc Mondriaan Photo Julie Morgan

Two schools, MBO Bonaire and ROC Mondriaan in The Hague, are working together to make the IT and HORECA courses at both schools increasingly modern and innovative. Together with IT company Cisco, special high-tech classrooms have now been set up in The Hague and Bonaire, so that students can follow lessons – in real time – at both locations. This is a unique development in the Caribbean Netherlands. Students from Bonaire, but also from the other islands and countries in the Caribbean Netherlands, can receive high-level lessons in the region.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW/CN), and the Shared Service Organization (SSO/CN) support this course financially. SSO/CN also supplies a number of teachers and offers

students the opportunity for further development within SSO through an apprenticeship program.

SSO-CN commissioned an investigation in 2018/2019 asking what SSO-CN could do to keep up with the growing demand for IT services. One idea was to set up an IT academy in Bonaire.

Lisette Keijser, MBO director, said that 30 classes can be taken 24/7 online. Computers are available to everyone thanks to contributions from Netherlands organizations and companies. Presently the digital classroom serves 624 MBO students and there is plenty of space for more to sign up. This is the last year for this three-year term and then another three years begin.

Tough bikers tackle a tough trail



Carpinteria Funrace, held Feb. 27 in the rough country of Lima, required some muscle in navigating the trails. Thirty-two riders began the race and 31 finished. Top winners in the two round Elite were: First - Tom Homburg with a total time of 1.17.18; Second – Vigillio Batista with 1.21.35 and Third – Berry Poort with 1.27.00. Fun race winners with three rounds were: First – Laurens Sanders with 1.45.00 and Simone Sweers with 1.48.50. See *The Reporter's* online update page for the complete results.

Bonaire Scuba is a little like the old days

Back in the late 1970's when Bonaire first became known as Diver's Paradise, the few resorts and dive operations were small. Diving was a personalized experience because, let's face it, there weren't that many divers. The first diving was done from trucks and then later small boats and every diver received the attention he/she needed. This type of personalized service is still available at the resorts but there are other options.

Experienced dive professional Larry Stern created Bonaire Scuba in 2021 to give people a bit of that old time personalized service.

Larry said, "I learned after many years from taking boats out with 12 people at a time that I wanted to create a smaller, more intimate experience; to show them how to focus on the small things... I wanted to establish something personal..."

Larry has worked in the dive industry as an instructor since 2002 in both small and medium dive operations. He worked in the Monterrey Bay area and Lake Tahoe before finally landing in Bonaire.

On his first visit to Bonaire in 2013, he did 36 dives and decided everyone here dives and thought 'this is my place.'

After moving to Bonaire he met the late Bruce Bowker of Carib Inn and worked

there from July 2013 to May 2021.

Larry said, "I've been unbelievably fortunate to have mentors and teachers. I had Bruce who was incredible and Keith Chesnut at Tahoe who really pushed us to develop our skills. I had the advantage to learn from Bruce of how to teach and handle Bonaire visitors... as the relationships are different from anywhere else."

As a dive tourist, Larry has visited 20 countries and taken what he learned from other instructors to make him a better diver and instructor.

Bonaire Scuba offers guided dives to marked and unmarked sites with personalized service including transportation by truck, like the old days. He will go anywhere except the east coast, even Washington Slagbaai National Park. The price for one to four people is a flat fee of \$100. And he even includes photos of the dive.

Larry explained, if there are more people, then we can talk about it. He thinks anymore than four loses the intimate experience.

Bonaire Scuba offers rental equipment in all sizes which he maintains perfectly. He attributes his knowledge of maintenance to the teachings of Bruce who was known island-wide as the go-to for equipment repair. Rental gear includes



Larry Stern

BCD, regulator, fins, mask, computer, wetsuit and weights for \$50 per day or \$200 for seven days. Tanks are \$10.

Larry teaches open water, refreshers, referrals, Discover Scuba, rescue and 20 different specialties.

With any Bonaire Scuba experience, whether it is a guided dive, professional buddy, a photo buddy for finding a specific marine critter, a class or a personal Sherpa, Larry will cater to the diver's schedule, not his own.

He has PADI liability insurance and

requires a signed liability release from each diver. For more information visit BonaireScuba.com or call +599-777-3483 / 777-(DIVE).

Larry is grateful and appreciative for the support and business advice he received from the Chamber of Commerce, tax office and other dive companies prior to starting Bonaire Scuba.

Julie Morgan story and photo



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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