



LVV director Maurice Adriaens Photos by Julie Morgan.

Let's get growing

LVV (Landbouw, Veeteelt en Visserij) or agriculture, husbandry and fishing department in Bonaire is holding the first LVV Open Day of 2022 on April 2. If you haven't visited LVV for the past few years, then be prepared to be amazed. The 50-hectare (123.5 acre) area of dirt fields, sparse vegetation and a few trees has been transformed into islands of productive green. There are green houses, fruit trees and vegetable gardens both raised and in ground. The new Daily Fresh Aquaponics on site is nearing completion. LVV is almost completely unrecognizable from just two years ago, all in the name of making Bonaire more self-sufficient in agriculture.

So, what happened? The Bonaire government (OLB) realized the island had the potential of being more sustainable through agriculture. LVV was being underused, so in September 2020 OLB hired Maurice Adriaens as director to make a plan.

In the past Bonaire had relied heavily on inexpensive produce from Venezuela so pushing for sustainable agriculture wasn't imperative. But then a boycott cut off the resources from our southern neighbor and a heavy reliance on imports from Europe and the U.S. began which doubled the cost of food. Then covid hit and with limited air transport, the cost of imported food doubled again. Bonaire was now paying four times more than before.

Adriaens' devised plan was approved by local and Dutch governments but with covid, bringing in someone new to execute it was impossible.

The job fell to Adriaens who studied tropical agriculture at Wageningen and performed similar work for LVV Curaçao.

Adriaens' plan was to be implemented in different stages with different areas of focus. Get the people involved and excited about growing their own food, stress healthier living and eating and finally manage Bonaire's free roaming goats.

A big part of the plan is teaching kids about gardening in remodeled greenhouses at

schools. LVV is providing seeds, plants and drip systems. Getting the kids interested will hopefully excite the parents and build a more self-sufficient population for generations.

A Barrio garden program with gardens set up at different centro di barrios is planned. LVV will teach and guide 'want to be gardeners' holding a class every two weeks and making home visits for those who have home plots. At LVV a pilot communal gardening program with 40 plots started in December

for people . . LVV is at Kaminda di Lagun 32 who want a garden but don't have the land.

On LVV Open Day, people can learn first-hand what others are producing locally. Many growers will have stands with their own plants for sale and others will be selling food. LVV is holding various workshops on caring for plants, making compost or plant soil and starting your own hydroponic garden. Bonaire Daily Fresh, the first leased agricultural business at LVV, will be give tours of their new 1250 sq. meter facility explaining what aquaponics is. Attendees will have a chance to see the newest developments including a new machine for baling hay from buffalo and mulato grass grown at LVV. People can visit the goats and sheep and take a class on marking livestock with a new ID clip that tracks ancestry, illness and ownership for a database.

Adriaens said, "Because of high prices there is a lot of poverty and poor diets on island. Before there were 40-60 families at the food bank. Now it is 400 families every week. A lot of this was caused by covid but it is also the cost of living. It's beneficial to have a small garden. They can produce their own leafy vegetables and have food for two to three days. It's not so difficult."

LVV Open Day is April 2 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. All workshops are free and held only one time per day. Anyone interested in exhibiting on LVV Open Day must reserve a table in advance for \$15 by calling 717-8836.

LVV's address is Kaminda di Lagun 32.

Photos and story Julie Morgan



A few of the many gardening stands at LVV Open Day in Oct 2021

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Dutch Government lowers excise duty on gasoline

The Dutch government announced that in addition to the Netherlands, the excise duty on petrol on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will be temporarily reduced by 16 USD cents from the 1st of April until the end of the year. This measure is part of the package that the Netherlands made available to mitigate the effect of rising energy prices in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The excise duty reduction is a policy-driven decision, and the budget includes 1.7 million euros that are earmarked for temporary tax mitigation measures. The House of Representatives is expected to pass affirming legislation via fast-track legislation. *DMR*

Pay up or else, government warns tourist tax evaders

Entrepreneurs and private individuals who provide accommodation to tourists, and who have not been remitting the tourist tax in recent years, have until May 1 to fess up and declare their arrears without penalty. After May 1 anyone declaring overdue tourist tax will pay a penalty. Those who fail to declare overdue tourist tax at all may be charged retroactively for up to 5 years of unremitted taxes.

Entrepreneurs and private individuals who provide paid accommodation to tourists are obliged to pay a tourist tax of US\$ 5.45 per person per night to the OLB every month. Tourists are understood to mean persons of ages 13 and up who are not registered on Bonaire or on one of the BES-CAS islands.

Those obliged to pay tourist tax are hotels and resorts, as well as those who provide apartments, houses or accommodation to tourists via, for example, online services such as Airbnb and VRBO. *DMR*



WalMart opening on Bonaire

DROB has received a request for zoning by WalMart Corporation for the property across from Tong Fung and between the RBC Bank and Toyota dealership.

The Reporter reached out to WalMart and received this statement, "WalMart is proud to make Bonaire the first Caribbean based store in our chain and we hope that it will lead to other islands adopting WalMart as their go-to store in the near future." - Elvira Walton, COO

From the DROB application, it looks like it will have about 100,000 sq feet of space on each of two floors, with under-building parking and solar panels on the roof.

Estimated opening is Fall 2023 just in time for Christmas. 🧺

The Hague says Chogogo must pay its fine

Christianne van der Wal, Minister for Nature and Nitrogen, assured Parliament that Chogogo resort will have to pay the \$1.2 million fine levied against it for proceeding with construction of a sand beach and retaining wall before the required permits had been granted.

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 13

Bopec + oil + money = questions

On March 17 a few Bonaireans witnessed a surprise event. A tanker, the *M/T Altair*, arrived at Bopec, the first in three years. It was guided to the dock by a pair of tugboats sent from Curaçao. After taking on a load of crude oil the tanker departed, reported destination Rotterdam.

Government press releases appeared. Public questions were raised. More press releases were issued to clarify and explain the previous releases. The public continues to ask questions regarding transparency. The arrival of the *M/T Altair* contradicts a number of things people had been told about Bopec. People wondered what had been changed, who decided, and why?

The public had been told that, because of lack of maintenance, the Bopec terminal can no longer handle petroleum products safely. Yet the press releases covering the arrival of the tanker assured that, "The pipelines of the oil storage company have been pre-inspected to allow for transshipment. This also applies to the oil tanks, the pump, the jetty and other technical facilities." Who decided that inspections were all that Bopec needed to be restored to safe operations? Why?

The public had been told that Bonaire was going to buy the oil stored at Bopec, sell it to ContourGlobal to power the generators, then use the money to settle with Bopec's creditors—including the unpaid employees—and to perform the maintenance required to upgrade the Bopec facility to international standards. But now a tanker is carrying Bopec oil to Rotterdam for an unnamed purchaser. Who decided to terminate Bonaire's arrangement to buy the oil? And who decided to sell it elsewhere? Why?

The public had been told that the court had declared Bopec bankrupt and appointed a curator, Stan van Lier, to dispose of the assets and settle with the creditors. Yet one of last week's press releases announced that, "The curator plans to refurbish Bopec's installations. The proceeds from the sale of oil are used for this purpose. With this operation, the curator aims to help the Public Entity, to reach a long-term solution for Bopec Terminal." Who decided to reverse the judge's bankruptcy ruling and task the curator with saving the company instead of shutting it



down? Why?

Another notable document released last week was a letter written by Climate and Energy Minister Rob Jetten to the House of Representatives. The letter, a long explanation of his ministry's plans to promote sustainable energy on Bonaire, is best understood in the context of the issues recently raised by the research television program Zembla. Basically, Zembla asked why Jetten's ministry had created a self-owned company, Bonaire Fuel Terminals (BBT), then awarded the company ten million euros in government funding. (See page 6 of *The Bonaire Reporter*, Issue #24, Dec 22, 2021 to Jan 5, 2022.)

Jetten's letter to parliament declared that, "A solar meadow can be realized on Bonaire this year. This will be followed by additional wind turbines that, in combination with storage capacity, can increase the share of renewable energy to 80% by 2024." Jetten also said, "If all parties reach an agreement on the design, and the island government of Bonaire and WEB agree with the proposal for making production more sustainable, the solar meadow can be built in 2022." Who decided the Ministry of Climate and Energy would replace the Public Body, WEB, and ContourGlobal as the managers of Bonaire's energy future? Why? *DMR*

Ride the wind at Bonaire Land Sailing Adventures



Cathy LeBarge definitely enjoying the ride

That is just what Donna Hudgeons and husband Andrew Sands from New Zealand thought. They were doing a tour of various islands in search of a place to set up a land sail business and visited Bonaire on their second stop.

Donna said, "We got off the plane and there was a vibe that I can't explain. We felt like we came home. We had met [the late] Michael Gaynor and Agnes Joosten and they showed us this spot. We canceled the rest of our trip we felt so at home."

The spot Donna mentions is the home of Bonaire Land Sailing Adventures between Kralendijk and Rincon, close to Arawak. Of course, it didn't happen all at once as it took a few years for the permit due to the zoning. A track had been established there eight years ago but had fallen in disrepair and required a significant amount of work to get it in shape. The 440 meter track is said to be the biggest purposely built standalone land sailing track.

The land sails, called BloKarts, originate from New Zealand, just like the owners, just like the owners Donna and Andrew.

"We had a land sail in NZ, just for fun and used it on the beaches. Everyone has one in their garage there," said Donna.

Andrew competes in land sailing all over the world and was named fifth best in the world at the 2016 world competi-

tion in Las Vegas.

The stainless steel BloKarts are one design and used worldwide. There are four different size sails for different size drivers and wind conditions. They range from 2-3m, 4m and 5.5m with the larger ones used when Bonaire's winds are lower. The BloKarts can be easily packed for travel with a weight of only 23kg and a separate bag for the sail.

Land sail drivers go through a 10-15 minute orientation on how to operate the land sail. Gloves and helmets are worn. Only 10 carts are allowed on the track at

a time. Groups larger than 10 are scheduled for rides in shifts. As far as difficulty goes, on a scale from one to 10, Donna gave it a two.

"You have control of your speed. You can go walking speed if you want or go all out for the adventure ride. There are no motors, only wind, so it is very quiet except for the waves," said Donna.

Their oldest land sailer to date was a woman of 91. Anyone 8 - 108 is welcome. Children 3 - 8 years require a

Land sailing continued on page 16



Riding the wind

FOR SALE Well Maintained Family Home Kaya Den Stashi 3



- Location : Antriol
- Lot size : 876 m2 / 9428 sq. ft.
- Living area : 326 m2 / 3509 sq. ft.



- 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / laundry / storage
- Palapa / outside bar / carport

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$549,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire



POLICE REPORT

The new anonymous tip line is 9310

Property crime

Apr. 1. I was robbed at a gas station in Hato last night. After my hands stopped trembling...I managed to call the cops and they were quick to respond and calmed me down.... My money is gone.. the police asked me if I knew who did it..I said yes.. it was pump number 3...



Mar. 22. Around 10 a.m. while the occupants were enjoying the view at Al-tamira in Rincon thieves took two bags from their car. The bag containing food and drink was found in the bushes. The other bag containing an iPhone SE6, a wallet with bank cards and cash, and Chanel and Rayban sunglass cases was not recovered.

Mar. 20. In the night hours, the police station received a report that people were taking helmets off scooters near a catering facility on Kaya J.N.E. Crane. A patrol arrested two men aged 26 and 22.

Mar. 16. The police station received a report about 3:20 a.m. that a robbery had taken place at a tourist accommodation on Kaya Linda. Two masked men surprised the property's security guard, tied him up and broke into an office space. The security guard broke free and fled to a house where the police were called. The suspects took an amount of cash.

Mar. 14/15. Thieves came through a window to break into a business on Kaminda Jato Bako. They took cash and a case of cameras.

Arrests

Mar. 21. At about 10:25 p.m., a driver on Kaya Korona ignored a police sign to stop. After a short chase the driver, 20, was arrested on Kaya Caribe for violating the Bonaire Road Traffic Ordinance, for failing to comply with a police request, for resisting with threats against an official in office, for violating the Opium Act BES and for violation of the BES Weapons Act. During the detention, a group of people began to interfere. A young man, 17, was arrested for obstructing an official act and for insulting and threatening an official in office. The car was impounded. When the car was searched, a small amount of drugs and a knife were found and seized.

Mar. 19. Around 2:30 a.m., a man, 27, was detained in the center area. He drove twice in a prohibited direction. He was arrested for obstructing traffic and driving under the influence. He had no ID or driver's license on him. Further investigation revealed that the suspect had exceeded his term of residence. He was required to report and show a ticket with the next flight to his country of origin. His passport was temporarily taken into custody as insurance of his departure.

Mar. 19. A man, 45, was arrested for threat with a weapon when he threatened another man with a knife.

Mar. 10. At about 12:45 a.m. the police

station received a report that a fight was going on at a bar on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. Upon arrival two men were found, one of whom had been wounded on the face. They stated that three other men attacked them. The injured man was taken by ambulance to hospital. In the late afternoon hours, a 15-year-old boy and an 18-year-old man were arrested for assault with a weapon.

Traffic accidents/violations

Mar. 22. At around 8 p.m., a scooter and a car collided in Amboina. The driver of the scooter stated that when the car suddenly turned in front of him, he could not brake and slipped from the scooter ending up under the car. Frightened, the victim got up and ran home. He was injured in his arms and leg and was taken from the home by ambulance to hospital.

Mar. 20. At about 10:35 p.m. a pickup and a car collided on Kaminda Tra'i Montaña. Coming from Rincon, the car followed a car in front of it that was overtaking a slower-moving car. This second car collided almost head-on with an approaching pickup. The driver of the pickup and two of its three occupants were taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car had his seat belt on and was uninjured.

Mar. 20. At about 3:50 a.m. a pickup collided with a car and drove off. A patrol stopped the pickup a little later. The driver, 48, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Mar. 13. A man, 49, was detained on Kaya Nikiboko South. As a result of a breath analysis, his license was revoked and he was charged with driving under the influence.

Traffic control

Mar. 15. A traffic control was held on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot as part of a speed check. A man, 26, was arrested for attempted manslaughter and for failing to comply with police demands. The driver of a motorcycle, ignored the police's order to stop. He nearly hit a cop and drove on. The motorcycle was seized for further investigation.

During the speed check, three other drivers received a police report for driving at too high a speed.

Mar. 10. In the evening hours the driver of a scooter on Kaya Korona was stopped because he was not wearing a helmet. He also had no driver's license and no valid insurance. The driver received a police report and the scooter was seized.

Mar. 10. Traffic checks were held at various locations, during which official reports were issued, in particular for driving without a seat belt. The fine for driving without your seat belt is \$110.

Speed checks were held at various locations in recent days. A total of 13 official reports were issued for driving at too high a speed as measured with a special 'laser gun.'

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

Do the houses there have 110 or 220 volts? Checking to see if I can bring my US appliances if I buy a home there. Rick

Hi Rick,

Homes here can have either or both 220 and 127 volt outlets. The 127 outlets are US style three prong outlets. The power for both is 50 hz. Most US appliances use 110 volts and 60 hz. Some appliances, like toasters, coffee makers and laptop computers, work with 127 and 50 hz. Other appliances, like refrigerators and washers, require 110. To use these appliances on Bonaire, you'll need to plug your refrigerator into a transformer that will convert 127 to 110. This doesn't change the 50hz to 60 hz, however. In our home, we have two refrigerators, a 220 refrigerator purchased here, and a



L-R: Jean and Kate

110 refrigerator from the States, plugged into a transformer. Both work well. We also have a 110 clothes washer that we purchased here, that is plugged into a transformer and is doing fine. We also have surge protectors for our TVs and computers.

*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.

POLICE STATISTICS 2021

Traffic A total of 673 collisions were reported to the police. Of these, 154 involved injuries (23%) and two were fatal traffic accidents. There were 67 single-vehicle accidents; 1202 fines issued for traffic violations; 140 reports/incidents of feveren and seven reports of street races.

Property Crimes A total of 310 incidents of theft were reported: 10 were theft with violence, two with a firearm and

three were street crimes. A total of 132 break-ins (burglaries) were reported: 48 in a company (36.4%), 25 in a tourist accommodation (18.9%) and 59 in a home (44.7%).

Violent Crimes A total of 147 incidents of assault and 119 reports of vandalism were reported. There were 107 threat incidents: 47 general (43.9%), 36 threats of death (33.6%) and 24 threats with a weapon (22.4%).



JICN sports field officially opened

The long-awaited sports field of the Judicial Institution Caribbean Netherlands (JICN) was officially opened on Thursday March 24 by Director of Prisons and Immigration Detention, Monique Schippers. The new sports field is necessary for the expansion of the detainees day program. Sports play an important role in JICN's reintegration process which is aimed at preparing detainees as best as possible for their return to society when their sentence is over.

BCN encourages people to file taxes online

Bonaireans must file their tax with the belastingdienst (BCN) by May 16. BCN started sending notices in February.

People are encouraged to file their tax declarations online via www.MijnCN.nl, a platform that guarantees better security and efficiency. Many taxpayers filed their returns online last year, and BCN hopes more will this year.

Filing a declaration online is faster and easier, BCN says. In most cases the filer

will see immediately the amount they have to pay or the refund they will receive. People can log in at mijncn.nl/mijncn-diensten/belastingdienst-caribisch-nederland to file. Those who don't have an account yet can create one there.

BCN will process filings as soon as possible after they are received. Although declarations that are more laborious or raise questions require more time, all assessments will be completed by November 1. DMR

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.

Sewer Overflow

To the Health Department of the Public Entity Bonaire

On behalf of myself and the Bonaire homeowners listed below, we would like to bring this serious problem to your attention.

Bonaire has been our full or part time home for many years. Some of the reasons we chose Bonaire are the Island's commitment to ecological responsibility, land and sea preservation, and keeping our environment safe and healthy. Bonaire claims publicly to being dedicated to a balance between environmental protection and growth.

We certainly understand that progress and development are inevitable; however, an unacceptable situation has surfaced.

Outside of Delfins Resort on the EEG Blvd. there are sewer tanks that are being cleaned out by truck at least 6 times a day. The tank lids remain open all day and the odor is strong, offensive and unhealthy. The wind direction flows this unhealthy air straight toward Delfins' guests, Lighthouse Beach Resort and Kings Beach residents. Several times each month, the tanks overflow probably due to over-use, rain and or an interrupted service schedule. This causes the flooding of the driveway entrance to both Lighthouse Beach and Kings Beach. Residents have

to drive through large pools of raw sewerage bubbling up from these tanks to get to our homes. The health issues this situation is causing are dire. Walking from our parking spots into our homes tracks in germs and bacteria. Any gravel or dirt that is added to this entrance is washed away within a few days.

We have been advised that pumping stations are planned which will solve the problem. This does not help the current unhealthy situation. Being an Island devoted to ecology, sustainability and healthy choices, a temporary solution should be immediately put in place. Perhaps some fixes would be for WEB to put down dirt, gravel and pallets in front of the LBR driveway every week and also keep the sewer lids closed. The tank openings should only be the size of the hose so that fumes do not escape while draining several times each day.

The island of Bonaire has long been a leader in nature conservation and ecological responsibility. This should extend to its residents health and well being. The Bonaire Government and your department handled the Covid Pandemic situation with competency, efficiency and humanity. We hope the same diligence and commitment will be given to solving this health problem.

We would appreciate and expect your quick reply to this health concern notification.

Jean Searce

Trying to support the local economy

Letter to the Editor

I came to live on Bonaire from the United States very late in life. I knew there were challenges facing me. What do you need to know? I use a walker/wheelchair and getting into and out of vehicles are difficult.

My plan was to support the local economy and its people the best I could. You don't know the challenges I've had attempting to do this. I could not open a bank account until I received my cedula. Fine, those are the banking rules. My account remains in a U.S. account. I'm approaching the 3rd anniversary moving here. I have an email PayPal account and two well-known credit cards. If I make a personal appearance at a local business, some will accept my credit card.

If I attempt to support a local non-profit organization, they request a bank transfer to a local bank. This does me no good. Banks do nothing as services anymore, they charge for every transaction. My daughter handles the transaction through her account then withdraws the money from my U.S. account to reimburse her

account. Talk about circumventing to achieve a goal.

The answer on this island is Facebook. Not for me. I am not on any social media. We've tried a cell phone and that too, was not practical. I use e-mail via the Internet. I can't tell you how many times I've emailed a local business or organization and never received a reply back. The very few that have responded do not have the capability of serving me. None of them have links on their websites for me to make a purchase using my PayPal or credit card options. Therefore, I must go online to the U.S. and purchase the items I am seeking in that manner.

I don't know that any local businesses are eager to garner my purchases, but I can tell you, you have missed out on several hundreds of dollars locally because of it. A simple link on your website would help me and others who do not get out very often. I can probably get someone to pick up the item for me once the transaction is complete.

I love the island, its people and have no regrets for moving here. I just wish there were ways to be more supportive of the general economy.

Earline Wasser



Bonaire Adopting the Euro

Due to the influx of Dutch and other European investors and home buyers, the Hague has decided to drop its use of the US dollar as its official currency and get in line with the rest of the Netherlands and adopt the EURO as the new official currency.

Why? Because every time a Nederlander buys a home here, they must convert from Euros to USD and lose money

in the transaction. Now, homes will be listed in Euros, food priced in Euros, etc.

This transition is expected to happen near the end of 2022/early 2023. At that point, local banks will automatically convert your accounts to Euro and make the appropriate exchanges for you at special one-time rates. BN



Special Olympics program receives donation



Following a Special Olympics swim team practice on March 15, Ben Anthony presented Special Olympics president Anne Marie Mercera almost \$2000. The funds were raised by the Sand Dollar Community after they organized their own walk for the Bonaire Special Olympics Program. The group realized that this was going to be the second year without a fundraising walk and they wanted to show their support. The 5K walk was held March 6 with approximately 30 walkers from Sand Dollar taking part. All walkers were treated to a full breakfast after the walk by the Sand Dollar community.

Pictured L-R: Sand Dollar Condominium maintenance supervisor Ben Anthony, athletes Giandrick Mercera, Giandro Mercera and Daremi Soleano, Special Olympic president, Anne Marie Mercera, Willy Piar, coach, Gislaine Makaai, coach and Chio Semeleer. Photo by Alan Zale



❖ **Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is partnering with neighborhoods** to organize 'Bario Festivals' where tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products. The first will be on April 2, Bario Festival Antriol - Edition Young Entrepreneurs.

❖ **As we come out of our seclusion, TCB's events calendar is once again full for 2022** with Bario festivals, evenings of the Taste of Bonaire, holidays, Regatta, and ending with December's shopping night. <https://www.tourismonbonaire.com/bonaire-events>

❖ **American Airlines is a new partner to Bonaire's week-long Dutch Caribbean rum festival.** The inaugural Bonaire Rum Week is set for June 14-17, with a series of events across the island (see page 12). American Airlines operates nonstop service from Miami to Bonaire.

❖ **TCB joined the Travel Counsellors Suppliers Day in Tiel, the Netherlands.** Travel Counsellors acts as a liaison matching the right traveler with the right destinations around the world. During this event, TCB gave 10 rounds of 12-minute workshops to a large number

of travel agents. TCB's message: Bonaire offers high-value, low-impact tourism.

❖ **Music from 'Ka'i orgel' will welcome arriving passengers** at the Flamingo International Airport. 'Ka'i orgel' is a hurdy-gurdy string instrument originating in Europe.

❖ **Bonaire is featured in ELLE Magazine NL.** In January 2022, TCB hosted the ELLE Magazine NL crew for a fashion shoot. One of the leading fashion magazines worldwide, ELLE appears in stores on March 28 and will be available till May 27, 2022. Twenty-eight pages are devoted to Bonaire. The fashion shoot speaks to the island's unique nature, its cacti, beach, and ocean as well as to its colorful neighborhoods. Five pages are dedicated to island information, best culinary addresses and adventures to explore.



Aquaneers travel to Bonaire



Aquaneers raking sargassum by Foodies in Sorobon, L-R Sammy Byrns, Dr. Jason Fleming, Bryn Fleming, Alex Guirgues, Morgan Fleming, Dr. Shay Neve (in back), Emerson Neve, Alistair Guirgues, Dr. Janelle Fleming, Adler Guirgues. Aquaneers not pictured, Daniel and Gabriella Roska.

MERROW Foundation Aquaneers from North Carolina visited Bonaire March 9-18. The Aquaneers are the teen science diving branch of MERROW and Seahorse Coastal Consulting. The youths, age 10 – 21, are training to be American Academy of Underwater Scientists (AAUS) science divers.

Under the guidance of MERROW founders Janelle Fleming and Jason Fleming the Aquaneers were introduced to several of Bonaire's marine organizations. The students worked with the STI-NAPA Junior Rangers headed up by Monique Grol on the Coral Watch Project. They provided their help and energy in the ongoing fight against the sargassum invasion plaguing our mangroves areas.

Working with Reef Renewal Bonaire they cleaned coral trees at Buddy Dive and conducted turtle surveys with Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). In addition to working with Bonaire's organizations they collected coral transect and quadrat data to determine reef health. The Aquaneers hope to return to Bonaire again to compare their findings.

Janelle Fleming said, "Not all of our Aquaneers were able to go on this trip, but we had a strong contingent of nine. We train in North Carolina in some adverse conditions. We can dive in very low visibility with strong currents. Our divers have advance diving training and master some rescue techniques."

Back in North Carolina the Aquaneers are involved in several projects: coral nursery for *Occulina Arbuscularis*; plastics settlement project; Spot-a-Shark project; algal surveys and lionfish removal.

During the winter the students focus on science education including the basics of oceanography with four subdisciplines: biological, chemical, geological and physical oceanography. In the summer they work in the water diving two to three times a week. Students can earn college credit for their training.

MERROW's Aquaneers have worked with the Florida Keys Mote Marine Lab, the Florida National Park Service, Aruba, Flower Gardens, Gray's Reef marine sanctuary, Coral Reef Restoration Key Largo, the Bahamas and now Bonaire.

The non-profit MERROW Foundation was founded by the Flemings in 2016 as a call to action for the ocean environment. The foundation's aim is to work with citizen scientists of all ages who are interested in studying and helping the ocean environment. MERROW's board members are marine scientists, engineers, consultants and educators with a combined 60 years of experience in marine research and education. For more information visit <https://www.merrow-foundation.org>.

Story and photo Julie Morgan

Press and RCN gather for Speed Networking

A meeting with the press and the entire communication department of RCN in a Speed Networking event held March 23 at It Rains Fishes was successful.

RCN communication department considers a good relationship with the press important. During the Covid period, contact was mainly digital or by phone, which is a lot less personal.

The press and RCN team enjoyed drinks and snacks on the lanai while get-

ting to know each other and discussing their ideas of the role of the press on Bonaire.

"It is good to be in contact with each other and to talk to each other personally," said RCN communications advisor Atseline Winklaar, "In a pleasant informal atmosphere, ties were strengthened again during the "Speed Networking."

Story and photo Julie Morgan



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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.

Why Ask Great Questions?

Reflection For Today

"Would you rather look naive for a minute? Or be naive for the rest of your life?" - Mark Cole

Tip For Today

"Chichi, I have a question..."

"Aaah, there's nothing like a great question, Swinda! I was reading this book about the value of questions..."

A question can be defined as a sentence worded to elicit information. Yes, questions can be annoying, challenging and invasive. But they can also be a great way to start a conversation, provide us with a different perspective, and satisfy our curiosity.

Great questions are like keys. They unlock and open doors for us that otherwise remain closed.

Here's why Swinda (and you too) should ask great questions...

1. **They stimulate thinking, reflection, and brainstorming.** This can also lead to understanding and solutions.
2. **They eliminate confusion, misunderstandings and misinterpretations.** This can also lead to clarity and comprehension.
3. **They facilitate learning, discovery and innovation.** This can also lead to knowledge and wisdom.
4. **They generate ideas, insights and aha-moments.** This can also lead to breakthroughs and growth.
5. **They cultivate Q&As, interactions and conversations.** This can also lead to connecting with people and relationship building.

Remember...

Good questions inform, great ques-

tions transform. But don't get stuck on asking the perfect question. Instead practice asking good questions, let people feel that you are genuinely interested in their answers and soon you'll be great at it.

According to speaker Anthony Robbins, "Quality questions create a quality life. Successful people ask better questions, and as a result, they get better answers."

From the start of their Malecon Power Walk, Chichi was going on and on about why she thinks great questions are so important. As they were nearing the end of their fitness session, Chichi looked at her best friend and said, "Btw, Swinda, didn't you have a question? You only get answers to questions you ask, you know."

"Oh, really?! And do you know what's necessary for a great question? Silence, Chichi, silence!"

Affirmation For Today

Today I am unlocking and opening doors through asking great questions.

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."

Asking Questions

by Gervase Phinn

When I asked my Mum, "What's for tea?" She smiles and says, "Wait and see!"

When I ask my Dad what he's done, He smiles and says, "In a minute, son."

When I ask my Gran if I can watch TV "I'll think about it.", she says to me.

When I ask Gramps about the good days, "Now you're asking.", he smiles and says.

If I answer the questions my teacher asks me, With "In a minute." or "Wait and see." I know just what the result would be!



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Sweet Peppers

Everyday I look with pride at my two beautiful, red sweet peppers hanging on one sweet pepper plant. I don't want to pick them even though they are ready to consume. They are so nice and attractive that I just like looking at them and I'm not ready to eat them—yet.

I have never seen this deep, reddish sweet pepper in the markets. I was wondering how this plant just grew in a pot and suddenly I remembered. I saw those red peppers on opening day at LVV months ago. I had bought some fresh vegetables straight from the garden there and I guess one or more of the pepper seeds came home with me. When I washed the veggies the seeds ran with the water into my garden. I had potted another plant and I guess the seed was in the soil and just started to grow.

What a miracle.

I have tried growing sweet peppers many times but not with such good looking fruits. Now all by itself it became a healthy, strong plant without any pampering.

Yes, a sweet pepper is in fact a fruit, not a vegetable.

Sweet pepper is native to South and Middle America but has spread over the whole world. Pepper varieties range from mild heat, fruity or sweet flavor. They belong to the Capsicum genus, one of a nightshade family, and called Annum. They are in different colors such as red, yellow, orange and green. The different types are the California Wonder-type, the Lamuyo in South Europe and the oblong Ramuyo. Also known as bell

pepper, it can be green, purple, white and brown during growing, but when ripened turns red, yellow or orange. They can be stuffed, grilled, fresh in salads, cooked in stoba, fried in fried rice, stir-fried in a wok or pickled.

Health benefit: They are a good source of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin K1, Vitamin E. They contain potassium, fiber, folate, iron and are low in calories. They are very good for eye health and anemia prevention. But they can also trigger allergies in some people.

As I said, I have tried many times to grow plants from seeds from the peppers I bought in the markets and they were always small and weak. Perhaps because white flies lay their eggs under the leaves especially during the drought. But this time, it rained regularly, so that decreased the white fly's impact and maybe that is why I got these nice, big sweet peppers. The plants like sunlight half the day then shade and water every other day. And they mature in four months.

Bell peppers grow best on Bonaire in a large container of soft, black dirt mixed with some rotten leaves and goat or rabbit manure. There should be at least 15cm of space between each plant. They do best out of the strong, dry wind because their sensitive leaves dry fast. If there are some rotten leaves on top of the soil, it's even better for keeping the soil moist. When they suffer from white fly, make tea from neem leaves and spray it over and under the leaves where they lay their eggs. If there is too much white fly, cut away the sick leaves and even the top of the plant. It might grow better after



Volunteer bell peppers from my garden

trimming and get more stems.

As the seeds of the bell peppers came by accident into my garden, so many other seeds come by wind, rain, water and birds. I see morenga seeds pop up, young plants of wayaca, tamarind, young neem plants, noni plants and cherry plants. I pull out what I don't want like the neem and noni, wayaca and morenga. These are all trees, which I don't want in my garden. But the sweet pepper and tomato plants, I do like of course, and even add dirt around a young plant to support it. Everywhere in my yard there are purslane plants, cat tail plants and spinach, not from my own garden but by water the seeds spread all over the place. No problem, they grow and I eat.

So don't pull all young plants out. But if you recognize it as a problem plant, pull it out immediately because the roots grow longer than the plant on the surface. The longer it stays the more effort it takes to pull out.

So success with your garden with all these "La Nina" rain showers in between

the perfect weather for gardening. And otherwise start with gardening, just do it now.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then 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.

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STCB and Dive Friends hold first fishing line cleanup of 2022



Massive amounts of discarded fishing line, a few hats, bottles, cans and, of course, plastic was collected by some 40 volunteers at the first Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) 2022 underwater fishing line cleanup.

Old and new volunteers dived the north pier in Kralendijk on March 20 in the tried and true collaboration between STCB and Dive Friends. The

two organizations have worked together since 2012 to remove fishing line to help protect marine life.

STCB manager Kaj Schut said, "Entangled and loose lines in the waters around Bonaire are a major concern. There is a considerable amount of fishing line, sometimes with fishhooks attached, tangled on the corals and sponges on the reef. Non-biodegradable monofilament lines last for several hundred years before they fully decompose. The lines can become a threat to marine life as they can become entrapped in the

line. Every year, STCB receives reports of entangled or hooked turtles. If the turtle cannot free itself quickly, it will drown."

STCB and Dive Friends plan to organize fishing line clean-ups at least once a month in 2022. The clean-ups will be announced on social media or divers can sign up for the mailing list on the website <https://www.bonaireturtles.org>.

To sign up for a clean-up, send an email to stcb@bonaireturtles.org. Volunteers divers usually meet at Dive Inn at Chachacha Beach for check-in. They get

a brief orientation on the dive and how to safely collect the fishing lines for both diver and corals. Dive Friends Dive Inn supplies air tanks for all certified divers.

When on Bonaire's beautiful reefs, please collect any fishing line, hooks and lures and dispose of them safely in one of the many PVC pipe "Tangler Bins", installed at favorite dive and fishing spots on island. The little bins are emptied regularly by STCB staff.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the March 20 cleanup.

Julie Morgan



The Bonaire Reporter posts photos of divers doing their part to remove fishing line on our Facebook page.

Parrots and People!

by Rayshantaly Coffie and Caroline Walta

As a rehabilitation center for Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrots we often release parrots that are ready to go back into the wild.

Some time ago we released a parrot that visits us quite often. We named him Pinda which means Peanut in Papiamentu. Pinda is used to people. He always inspects our work as we try to finish the many details we must finish in our new visitor center. Pinda is usually there during our weekly meetings, when we clean, when we plant trees and when we prepare food. But lately, Pinda has not been around. Do you have any idea why?

a) Pinda likes peanut butter and Echo ran out of it?

b) Pinda does not understand the new volunteers who don't speak Papiamentu?

c) Pinda is in love?

Our free flying lora Pinda is.. c).. in love.

He started his search for a mate in February and he found her! Of all the loras out there on Bonaire, his girlfriend is a resident at Echo.

The two birds are constantly preening each other. Another sign of affection is that they gently share their food bowl and make small conversations. Just like we humans do on a date.

Pinda found his girlfriend at Echo. How did he search?



First Pinda inspected his candidates from a distance. Then he made his way to an aviary where he chatted and waited for a response at the fence. When we were cleaning a specific aviary Pinda decided to sneak inside. At first, we didn't notice and began looking for him.

There he was, in a corner hidden behind some fresh branches, preening another lora. Although she has a permanent wing injury and cannot fly, she is an excellent climber. Because of her sweet personality we named her Popje, the Dutch word for a female lora.

We have put a breeding box inside the aviary where Popje and Pinda are to see if there will be a baby coming.

We are very excited to see what is going to happen next. With this news we can clearly see that the breeding season for the Yellow Shouldered Amazon Parrots has begun. We will keep our eyes open to see if the parrots in the wild are also starting to flirt with each other.

Like and follow the Echo Facebook page for the latest updates about this lora love story.

Top photo: Pinda sits on the steps of Echo's visitor center.

Bottom: Pinda preens Popje through the wire of her cage.

European Data Leak at Social Media Giants



Computer operators verify individual's digital images scrambled after leak in European data center when hackers gained access to the servers in Amsterdam holding Twitter, Facebook and Instagram photos.

European user's photos have been randomly swapped with other users' photos, resulting in things like a dog face being shown instead of the human face.

It is now a much more fun experience on these sites because you never know what you will see.

The companies are using facial recognition systems to try to put things back to how they were before the breach. BN



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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Never a dull moment

As soon as he was released from the revalidation clinic, my husband thought he was free from therapy and free from exercising.

But he learned that this would be an ongoing thing. Only now he was at home and the therapists came to him, depending on the exercises.

There was a small room where Anthony would work alongside others training and sometimes that was fun. But then there were days it was boring.

Along came a nice young woman who did things differently. She came to our apartment and working with her was like a breath of fresh air. She would come in with a balloon, and with Anthony standing they would beat the balloon back and

forth like a game of tennis. He was very scared at first since he had right side paralysis plus he had aphasia.

During all this action, she asked many questions like where we were from. Of course, Anthony was supposed to answer, but he was very happy to have me there. I always waited for him to speak the first word, I said "Bonaire" and he said "Korsou." So together we would say/mean : "Antilles."

Often I was cooking lunch at the same time and almost every time it was "kuminda krioyo" (Antillean soulfood). I explained what I was cooking, and she would ask Anthony questions for him to answer in one word sentences. Oh, it made him so proud to be able to say some words and to talk about his island

and customs.

Walking was also a huge part of the therapy. But this therapist had seen our CD-collection. We had a lot of hard rock music, but also wonderful Antillean music, like Ced Ride, Tipiko Bonairiano and for the salsa we played Gloria Estefan.

The therapist shoved all the furniture to the side and had Anthony get up again to stand while she asked me to play a Gloria Estefan CD. I chose "Mi tierra."

She grabbed Anthony and started to dance salsa. Anthony was afraid he would fall and would not move. "Aha" she said, "You cannot dance because the music is too low," and asked me to turn it up.

I switched the speakers up high, she grabbed Anthony again and started to dance. And there he was... swaying to the music and singing along.

It is very strange that people who have aphasia cannot talk, but they can sing.

And with help of music and singing the speech therapy is executed.

Maybe you can imagine our living in this small apartment in a care-facility with only elderly inhabitants. And here we were.... just 50 and having a ball. This looked no way like therapy.

The neighbors came to look and find out what was going on. The cleaning lady stood in the doorway and some nurses came to watch. They had never seen such a session before, and they loved it.

You might guess that this young lady was Anthony's favorite therapist.

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

Time management

Can we handle time? Can we develop the ability to speed up or slow down the passage of time? In a mechanical, three-dimensional reality, all we can manage are our priorities, our activities and the flow and sequence of what we choose to do. We discard other options and the amount of time and effort we would have spent on each of them.

There are many systems that offer guidelines on how to organize our activities to obtain the desired results in the shortest possible time. That is what we can handle, but not time.

The first thing is to gain clarity in the setting of objectives. Clarity is achieved

through questions. What is it that I want to achieve? The answer will allow you to identify your priorities. Why do I want to achieve these goals? The "why" will allow you to determine how important the goals are in your life. You can organize your priorities according to your values. Bearing this in mind, you can determine the amount of time and effort that you are going to dedicate to achieve the activities. You can also classify daily tasks depending on whether they bring you closer to achieving your goals. It is only after answering these questions that you can write down the list of objectives in order of importance.

Once you set goals you can set a dead-

line of a week, a month, a year or even several years. Only then can you start putting together your agenda and your calendar. Because each daily activity you put on your agenda has to go through the filter of your priorities from macro to micro.

To plan the week, you can make a list of goals for that period. There are some activities that are fixed for each individual. The gaps are filled with alternative activities and unforeseen events. Activities that cannot be completed, or unforeseen events that cannot be solved as planned, must be reassigned to a future space in the agenda before the end of the very same day in which they have not been resolved. Reassignment will prevent insomnia due to mental rumination on pending tasks.

If your priorities are exclusively material or prestigious achievements, you are going to fill your agenda with ac-

tivities that are going to seem more like obligations. If your priorities resonate with your deepest values, such as love, well-being, friendship, joy, compassion, learning, etc, your agenda will be varied and colorful.

In short, we only have one life to live. We do not manage time, there is no going back or devolution. But, we can fill our time with all the activities that bring us closer to our goals, inspire us and resonate with our mission and values. There is no such thing as wasted time, as conceptually it is impossible. There is only badly used time. Time is always well used if we live with awareness, compassion and intensity.

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.

CRUISE SHIP RATING

Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Sea visited Bonaire March 25 with 2,772 passengers and 1,033 crew members. Full capacity for the ship is 3,114. Their website displays a fare price of \$204 and up per passenger. Friends of the Earth environmental report card gives Royal Caribbean overall a D+ rating: sewage treatment C; air pollution F; water quality compliance F and transparency A.



United States airlines security upgrade coming -- Kralendijk scared



The new US Airline security upgrades that are going to be implemented for any travel back to the USA from any international locations, plus Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska include the following: All luggage must be unpacked and laid out on a table for security personnel and dogs to inspect.

This will require a security check time of 20 minutes per person on the flight. For example, if there are 100 people then you need to be there 2,000 minutes before your flight (About 33 hours).

The Flamingo Airport will be bringing in cots for people to sleep on during the pre-boarding wait.

Enjoy your flight. BN





Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Sharpnose Puffers - Cute, Curious and Deadly

Why are sharpnose puffers so bold?

Because they're darned near invulnerable! (Invulnerable to underwater predators, that is. Terrestrial foodies are different.)

There's a fish dish called fugu that consists of special parts of puffer or porcupinefish. What makes fugu unique is that parts of the fish – including the liver, eyes, ovaries, and skin – are poisonous. If the poisonous parts aren't separated perfectly from the edible parts, the results can be fatal. A few people die from fugu poisoning in Japan every year, adding veracity to the phrase, "Ooh, I'm just dying for some fugu!" Fugu fanatics say it's worth the risk; the flesh is tasty, and sometimes one's lips and mouth get a tingly feeling.

The poison is called tetrodotoxin (TTX), which means "four tooth poison", since it was first found in puffers, and since puffers have four teeth (two on top and two on the bottom). It turns out that our sharpnose puffer is a carrier of tetrodotoxin, so no matter how hun-

gry you get on a dive, do not snack on a sharpnose puffer!

Tetrodotoxin was known for years, but only in the last decade did scientists discover:

- that tetrodotoxin is the same nerve toxin as the venom of the blue-ringed octopus, one of the most highly venomous animals in the world!
- that tetrodotoxin isn't actually produced by the pufferfish, it's manufactured by symbiotic bacteria hosted by the puffer (or octopus). This explains why it's a poison (ingested toxin) in puffers, and a venom (injected toxin) in the octopus. It also explains how animals as different as a pufferfish and an octopus can have the same toxin.

Luckily, since poison kills the prey as well as the predator, poisoning is not the puffers' primary defense – they are puffers, after all. Years ago, I had a scorpionfish friend we called the Cookie Monster. One day I offered him a piece



This little sharpnose puffer might be curious about his reflection in the camera port.

Photo Julie Morgan

of fish, and as he was preparing to lunge, a sharpnose puffer began nibbling on the food. I waved it away. It came back. I waved it away. It came back. Before I could wave it away again, the Cookie Monster lunged -- and gulped down the food and the sharpnose puffer!

People say that fish don't have expressions, but that scorpionfish's expression was as clear as the words, "What the ...?!" His mouth moved as if he were gargling, and then – pah! – he forcefully ejected the fully-inflated puffer. (Note that he did not spit out the food!)

Why did the scorpionfish spit out the puffer? Having his prey suddenly double in size would be shocking enough, but added to that was the unfamiliar effect of the TTX-containing mucus on the puffer's skin. The puffer's rejection was not only life-saving for the puffer, but also for the Cookie Monster, since losing a meal is better than dying (except, apparently, for a fugu fanatic). It's probable that predators occasionally eat puffers and survive, but apparently only sharks and sea snakes actively eat puffers, and our sharpnose puffers are awfully small for sharks and in the wrong ocean for sea snakes.

However, apparently dolphins have shown an interest in puffers – but not in a way we'd expect. The sneaky filmmakers who documented this behavior ("Dolphins Play Catch with a Pufferfish!" on YouTube) used cameras in a robot turtle and a robot inflated pufferfish. They recorded instances of a dolphin mouthing a pufferfish, then

tossing it over the water's surface for another dolphin to grab and carry around in his mouth for a while, before passing it on to another dolphin, and so on. The dolphins mouthed the puffer gently, and when they left it, the puffer seemed unscathed (though it did depart quickly).

Then the dolphins went up to the surface and moved around in a manner that was labelled a "trance-like" state. The narrator stated that those dolphins were groups of young males who had been kicked out of their family pod for being unruly!

Sharpnose puffers weren't on the robot films, possibly because of their too-easy-to-swallow size. But if we divers and snorkelers keep an eye on sharpnose puffers, who knows what bizarre new things we'll learn?

Note: As I wrote about sharpnose puffers having the same toxin as the most venomous octopus known, and about partying dolphins experimenting with the effects of puffer-chewing, I realized that if I'd wanted to write an April Fool's puffer article for the Bonaire Reporter, I couldn't have come up with anything more outrageous than that!

However, this is all true!

Isn't nature grand?

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



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Activities, Events & Meetings


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

Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction 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 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.


Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. 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 p.m.

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



MEET THE ARTIST
Josie Martinez Mangle
Friday April 22 7PM - 9PM
MoltenWolf Glass Shop
Kaya J.N.E. Craane
Terramar 8

 **The Caribbean part of the Kingdom has now been added as the 14th region in the NPO2 TV program, Expedition Netherlands.** From Monday, April 4, Expedition Netherlands can be seen at 12:30 p.m./Caribbean & 6:30 p.m./Netherlands. View it via NPO 2, BVN and streaming platform NPO Start.

In Expeditie Nederland, the viewer sees short reports from different regions. The reporters go in search of the special, controversial and moving stories to paint their own image of the Netherlands and the Kingdom.



Let's go back in time and explore Bonaire's History and Culture

André Nahr is offering a fascinating, not to be missed 'journey' into the History and Culture of Bonaire. The classes will be taught in English over four days, from April 26 through May 5.

We will explore Bonaire's History from the arrival of the first inhabitants 3600 years ago to the arrival of the the Spanish in 1499, the first Europeans, to the Dutch more than 100 years later. The classes will include the arrival of African slaves in 1640, abolition of slavery in 1863, the British periods in the early 1800's up to the post WWII period and the start of Bonaire's modern times. The history will be combined with the cultural aspects, addressing language, holidays, musical instruments, food, clothing, flora & fauna and much more. For thousands of years, the Caribbean Sea has connected the different people and their cultures from the mainland countries of the Americas, Europe and the Caribbean islands. This international historical melting pot eventually formed the Bonairean culture that still lives on today....

Dates: Tuesday, April 26, Thursday, April 28, Tuesday, May 3, Thursday, May 5 - 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Cost is \$140 per person, to be paid in cash at the first class, venue TBA asap., coffee & tea included.

To sign up for this fascinating event email geology.andrenahr@gmail.com

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about our beautiful island !

Coming May & June

Bonaire Culinaire will take place from May 19 to June 2, 2022. During these 15 days, participating restaurants, lunchrooms and foodtrucks will offer diners a three-course dinner for \$33; a two-course lunch for \$22 and a foodtruck special for \$11.

To sign up as a venue, email: contact@Bonaire-Culinaire.com.

For more information visit: <https://bonaire-culinaire.com>

Bonaire Rum Week will be held for the first time June 14 to 17, 2022. The festival will begin with an opening party, followed by an island-wide cocktail competition featuring Bonaire's best bartenders, a rum-soaked lunch, a juicy rum Happy Hour; a multi-course culinary experience combined with rum, followed by a rum-and-cigar combination event.

For the most up-to-date information, schedule, events and partners, visit: www.bonaierumweek.com

What's Happening

Bonaire Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. Weekly schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>

Bonaire Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Grael 715 5344, Members can also find books online outside opening hours. 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 p.m.)

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

Animal Shelter: Open fully. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

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

April 1 - 8	Children's Music Week. For the first time, Bonaire will participate in "The Children's Music Week," an annual event in the Netherlands.
Saturday, April 2	Bario Festival Antriol- Edition Young Entrepreneurs Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.
Sunday April 10	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. https://www.facebook.com/cleancoastbonaire
Thursday - Monday April 14 - 18	Forsa King of the Caribbean. At Sorobon around The Frans Paradise. In addition to the competitions for the professionals, competitions and activities will also be organized for up-and-coming talent.
April 15, 17 -18	Good Friday. Easter. Easter Monday. Public holidays
Friday, April 22	Meet the Artist: Josie Martinez Mangle. 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, April 23	Quarterly Clean-up Dive. Dive Friends. +599 780-2572 https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/clean-up-dives/
Wednesday April 27	King's Day. Public holiday. National day.
Saturday April 30	Rincon Day. Regional holiday

Tentative cruise ship schedule April 2022 (cruisedig.com)					
DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PASSENGERS	LINE
Wednesday	03-30	Marella Discovery	1300-2000	1830	Marella
Thursday	03-31	Seabourne Odyssey	0800-2300	450	SBN
Friday	04-01	Celebrity Silhouette	0800-1800		Celebrity
Friday	04-01	ms Nieuw Statendam	0800-2300		Holland American
Saturday	04-02	Celebrity Constellation	1100-2100		Celebrity
Monday	04-04	AIDA Perla	0800-1800		AIDA
Wednesday	04-13	Emerald Princess	0700-1700		Princess
Monday	04-18	Seabourne Odyssey	0800-1800		SBN

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.
Brussels (BRU) Starting Nov. 4	Air Belgium starting in November will fly twice weekly F. Sun. Arrive Bonaire 15:05. Return departure 16:05. The triangle flight makes Bonaire the first stop from Brussels then carries on to Curaçao: BRU-BON-CUR-BRU
Atlanta (ATL)	Delta Four weekly flights: M. W. F. Sat. Arriving 14:44. Return departure 16:09 From April 10th through June Delta will fly twice weekly: Tues. Sat.
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. Schedule (Feb. update) is at https://www.tourismbonaire.com/includes/International-Flight-Schedule-Feb-2022.pdf	

FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

'Chogogo must pay fine' continued from page 2:

"I believe that the quality of enforcement is served by the collection of forfeited penalties imposed," the minister wrote. The OLB is responsible for this, despite the oral consent order for the completion of the project, this is a matter of good governance because a violation was committed by constructing the beach in anticipation of the required nature permit." *DMR (Antilliaanse Dagblad)*

BES Islanders to be compensated for Dutch child benefits scandal

The Netherlands government is paying an initial 30,000 euros as compensation to all victims of the child allowance scandal that triggered the resignation of the Rutte III government. Eleven BES Island parents have been identified as eligible. Parents in Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten who were unfairly penalized will also be compensated under a separate program that is being planned. *DMR (Kingdom Relations File)*

KLM and TUI increasing fares to Caribbean

With the war in the Ukraine disrupting Russian oil supplies, world fuel prices are surging. Air fares are following. KLM airline has announced higher ticket prices for long-haul destinations, including the Caribbean islands.

A KLM return ticket to Bonaire will cost around \$35 more, \$25 for a one-way ticket. Business class will likely increase by about \$110, \$80 for one-way.

TUI fliers will have to pay almost 70 euros extra for a return ticket.

Travelers who booked their flight previously will not be affected. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

An extra 30 million budgeted for the Caribbean Netherlands

The State Secretary Van Huffelen wants the Caribbean Netherlands to achieve a livable minimum before the end of this term of office. In a coalition agreement, parliament has promised to invest an "extra" 30 million euros annually to help achieve that goal.

Parliament intends the money to be devoted to alleviating poverty and increasing the free benefit. Parliament also insists the money is extra. The ministries must spend it in addition to funds already in their budgets that are designated for the islands. A motion was announced that would ensure only the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, together with the island governments, would determine how the money is spent.

The benchmark for the social minimum will be adjusted this spring. Since that benchmark was established in 2018, the gap between income levels and the cost of living has widened. Prices have risen significantly and most of the cost-reducing measures promised by the previous government have not materialized. *DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

Larry William Baillie

July 24, 1951 – March 23, 2022



Sergeant Larry William Baillie had a military career with the Canadian Combat Engineers, Combat Divers, EOD-IED, and was an Airborne Trouper.

Larry Baillie moved to Bonaire in 1999 and was known as "Captain" with the fishermen of Bonaire. He worked for Bruce Bowker at Carib Inn until he started Larry's Wildside Diving business and opened up diving on the east coast of Bonaire. Larry was the Managing Director for the JanArt Gallery for the past 10 years.

He leaves behind his wife, Janice Huckaby Baillie, sister Bertha Nisbet, brother Raymond Baillie, nieces and nephews.

A memorial ceremony was held Saturday, March 26, 2022 at Consuelo Memorial.

Covid-19 round-up

Covid infections are increasing again on the island. (The health department is now reporting covid numbers weekly rather than daily). During March 7-14, 66 people tested positive, 43 cases were active, and one person was hospitalized. During March 14-21, 175 people tested positive, 126 cases were active, and one person was hospitalized. During March 21-28, 233 people tested positive, 160 cases were active, and one hospitalized. There have been no covid-related deaths in the past three weeks.

Travel requirements for travelers from all countries have been relaxed. Fully vaccinated travelers, and those who provide proof of recovery, do not need to be tested before their trip to Bonaire. All travelers are still required to complete the health declaration form, regardless of vaccination status or country of departure. Antigen and PCR testing are still available for departing passengers.

Covid effects persist for many victims. Of 414 people tracked by the Public Health Department, 160 still had complaints four weeks after they became ill. They show symptoms of 'lung COVID,' also called 'long COVID': fatigue, weakness, and shortness of breath.

Secondary students are encouraged to self-test twice a week. The Public Health Department has released a video that shows students how to do the self-test. Although corona measures are no longer required on Bonaire, the virus is still present on the island and vulnerable people such as the elderly need to be protected. The department has been handing out self-tests in secondary schools since February 16, 2022. *DMR*

SAPS guards Flamingoes



A group of Bonaire's Flamingo Lovers has banded together to prevent tour vehicles and their clients, and everyone else, from approaching flamingoes too closely. The laws will now be enforced by relocated Florida alligator graduates from the well-reviewed Special Alligator Pack Service (SAPS), each of whom has been specifically trained to attack tires and human legs, and learned flamingo-leg aversion therapy training perfectly.

The SAPS' first guarding site will be the salina opposite the Harbour Village Marina. We recommend that our readers avoid travel between Something Special and Chogogo, and we wish the SAPS the best of luck! *DS*

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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. Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment, also via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Fenny

Hello you all. I would like to introduce myself, my name is Fenny and I'm a very happy girl.

I'm around 1.5 years old, and very healthy. They call me their precious low

rider, because I have short legs, but besides that I'm a big doggie.

I was found near a resort a couple months ago, I found my way around there and started to get familiar with everything, and that's why I went to the shelter.

Now I've been a shelter resident for almost three months and I would like to have my own place and my own people that I can call family.

I'm very good with other dogs and I love all humans.

I like to play with a ball and other dog toys. Belly rubs are always nice but what I love most are hugs and kisses.

Do you like me and would love to meet me, then hurry and come visit me.

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

Hi human friends, my name is Sven.

Four weeks ago something strange happened. I was sitting at the boulevard, watching the sun go down, when a sweet lady came to me and picked me up. She was afraid a car would run over me. She was asking around if somebody was missing me but nobody showed up. So she brought me to the Animal Shelter Bonaire where the kind people took care of me. They tested me on FLV/ FIV, gave me some vaccinations, worm pills and flea drops.

They say I'm a sweet young boy of about 8 months old. I like to play and cuddle and you may touch my soft half long fur. Can I live with you and be your best friend for life?

Story Monique Degenaar

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



Sven



Shelter News



Shelter takes in its first unicorn!

"What an amazing and wonderful happening this was!" said a Shelter team member. "Research proves that even veterinarians who have been practicing for decades have never seen one, so we are really excited. It's the first one in the Shelter's 39 year history". 99.9% of calico cats are female. Only one in every 3,000 calico cats is a male....which gives them the moniker the unicorn of cats. So when this precious and rare cat arrived at the Shelter everyone assumed it was a girl...until we took a closer look! IT'S A BOY! He was named Xenos....from the Greek for "stranger". Xenos is very handsome with owl-like eyes and is very sweet and affectionate. But don't get your hopes up about giving this unicorn a home....he was quickly adopted by a Shelter team member and will spend the rest of his wonderful rare life as an indoor, much-loved member of a multi-cat family. *Jane Disko*

Become a PADI Divemaster with Dive Friends Bonaire

Dive Friends Bonaire, with eight dive schools and four retail stores currently holds the position of the biggest dive school on Bonaire. At every location guests are welcome to pick up tanks, sign up for a course, get informed about diving on Bonaire or simply drop by for a cup of coffee and a chat! Every location is full service and at every location you will find motivated and enthusiastic crew members that can not wait to tell and teach you everything you would like to know about (diving on) Bonaire.

Are you ready to dive like a pro? If you love a challenge and want to expand your diving knowledge and underwater skills beyond that of a recreational diver, then the PADI Divemaster Internship at Dive Friends Bonaire is for you.

During your journey to PADI Divemaster, you will:

- master essential scuba skills
- increase your knowledge of dive physics, physiology, equipment and the environment
- expand your awareness of dive sites and in all dive situations
- map a dive site
- organize a search and recovery project
- learn about diver safety and risk management
- build your competence and confidence as a diver
- and so much more!

Are you ready to take your diving to a professional level? Contact Dive Friends Bonaire (eddy@divefriendsbonaire.com) to learn more about the PADI Divemaster course and how you can get started today!



Animal Shelter Bonaire received some helping hands through a community service project from employees of Van den Tweel and Warehouse on March 28. Nine animal loving employees walked dogs, cleaned the cat palace and dog kennels, bathed and groomed dogs and cleaned water bowls. Dog trainer Norbert Tadema Damman of Dog Partner Bonaire gave a presentation on CPR, Heimlich maneuver and what to do if strokes, choking or overheating occurs in canines. Photo Julie Morgan





Owners and staff of Bonaire Land Sailing Adventures L-R: Donna Hudgeons, Andrew Sands, Lennart Felida and Shaquil Boezem. Not pictured is Julius Rignault.

shadow cart with parent or guardian.

Donna and Andrew are venturing out to spread the news about land sailing with the NZ business Velocity Kart. The two businesses will join together as an umbrella company under the name of Land Sailing Adventures International. Meetings are already set with people in Panama, Barbados and Perth, Australia.

The next worldwide BloKart land sailing competition is scheduled in New Zealand October 17 – 22. Andrew will be taking a team from Bonaire Land Sailing

Adventures for the contest.

In business since October 2017, Bonaire Land Sailing Adventures is open every day the wind blows from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with the last booking at 4 p.m. Land Sailing will begin doing evening sails soon. Lights are being installed and they will block off part of the track.

Appointments are made online through the website www.landsailingadventures.com, WhatsApp +599-786-1572, Facebook or Instagram.

Photos and story Julie Morgan

Conservationists attend Landbird Monitoring Workshop

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) recently supported the attendance of qualified conservationists from Aruba, Bonaire, Saba and Sint Maarten to a five-day Landbird Monitoring Workshop in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic.

Birds Caribbean organized the ‘train the trainer’ workshop in which participants were trained to monitor landbirds in the wider-Caribbean Region. Monitoring landbirds is vitally important to understand changes in population and distribution in response to environmental changes and threats.

“With the skills learned during this workshop we will be able to increase the way we protect our nature areas on land which are some of the most threat-

ened spaces on our islands,” commented Tadzio Bervoets, Director of the DCNA.

The workshop was made possible through the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada, US Forest Service International Programs, Optics for the Tropics, and the DCNA.

Below L-R: Kai Wulf, Director Saba Conservation Foundation; Caren Eckrich, Biologist STINAPA Bonaire; Melanie Meijer Zu Schlochten, Manager St. Maarten Nature Foundation; Tadzio Bervoets, Director DCNA; Giancarlo Nunes, Conservation Manager Aruba National Parks Foundation; Jilly Sarpong, Terrestrial Park Ranger STINAPA Bonaire (Credit: Giselle Dean, Bahamas National Trust- all rights reserved)



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