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Photo: Julie Morgan

Honoring our oceans on World Ocean Day

Did you know that the ocean is responsible for 50% of the oxygen you breathe? Each year on June 8 we celebrate World Oceans Day; a day where we celebrate and emphasize how important oceans are for our lives, health, wellbeing, and livelihoods. This year's theme will be **'Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean'** where community efforts, new ideas, and novel solutions involving stakeholders from different backgrounds working together are to be highlighted and celebrated.

For 30 years, starting in 1992, World Ocean Day has been observed. On this day we take some time to reflect on the importance of the seas to humanity and the planet. The oceans connect us all. From the moment early human ancestors ventured out into the unknown blue over a hundred thousand years ago, the seas have played an important role in our civilization's growth and development. Oceans, covering 70% of the planet's surface area, are incredibly important for many coastal communities: they are a source of food, a place for relaxation, have cultural and sometimes spiritual importance, and contribute directly to many economies in the form of tourism and fishing. But the sea also plays a huge role in some other areas we don't often think about. Global shipping and trade

is one example. The vast majority of goods transported around the world are done so by ship. But did you know that the ocean also contributes to healthcare? For instance, many of the ingredients in medicines used to treat arthritis, cancer, and other ailments, come from the ocean. There are even many pharmaceutical companies that invest heavily in discovering new compounds, in sponges or corals, that could have therapeutic effects. Many novel antibiotics and antivirals, like those that can be used to treat HIV, are likely just waiting to be discovered down below.

Unfortunately, we are now at a tipping point from which there will be no coming back; many of the services the ocean provides us are in danger. While the ocean has been very generous to us, we have not always been its best stewards. For decades we have been polluting the oceans with plastics, sewage, agricultural runoff, toxic waste, and even radioactive materials! The ocean, by distributing heat from the equator towards the poles, helps to regulate the climate and weather patterns. When this regulation becomes disbalanced, it results in monster storms like hurricanes Katrina and Irma, becoming

all the more frequent and devastating. And that is without even mentioning the likely collapse of many marine ecosystems. If we do not act soon, it will be too late to reverse the tide. But herein also lies the good news, it is not too late to save not just the ocean, but ourselves. By forming new partnerships, bringing together interests and organizations that have not historically seen eye to eye, we can make enough of a difference to reverse the declining trends we have been seeing over the last decades. This requires cooperation on an international level and on a massive scale rarely seen before. We need national governments, international cooperations, big and small conservation NGOs, as well as businesses, both large and small, to join forces.

It is time for all of us to do our part. It is especially important that we urge governments to better legislate and regulate what is happening in our oceans and truly and actively take collective action to revitalize our oceans!

Roxanne-Liana Francisca.

STINAPA Biologist.

Connecting People With Nature



Oceans Give - Oceans Take, a short informative 'crash course' video on why we should honor our oceans by Robert Krulwich. (originally broadcast on CBS Sunday Morning)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk0k-EB3X8>

Sunset Beach controversy gridlocks OLB

The island government gridlocked recently when Governor Edison Rijna canceled a decision of the Island Executive Council by choosing to exercise his optional vote. The Sunset Beach Resort had applied for exemptions from certain building regulations. The Councilors voted 2-1 to turn down the application. Rijna voted to approve the application. The resulting 2-2 tie left the issue hanging and stirred up a political hornet's nest that seems to have brought governance on Bonaire to a halt.

Sunset Beach Resort requested exemption from maximum building height and gutter height provisions in the Spatial Development Plan. The Resort could then add a fifth floor to its buildings, increasing the capacity to 245 rooms.

Commissioners Hennyson Thielman and Nina den Heyer voted against the exemptions. Commissioner James Kroon and Governor Edison Rijna voted to approve the exemptions. The Lieutenant Governor participates in Executive Council meetings but does not routinely vote. The procedural rules allow him the option of voting however, even the option of casting a second ballot in order to break a tie.

Thielman and den Heyer said that if the exemptions are approved, they will resign from the Executive Council. The issue went public and the resulting turmoil threatens to bring down the island government.

Critics say a decision regarding exemptions for a single resort is not the primary issue. If Sunset Beach Resort is allowed to build to five floors, a new precedent will be set for the whole island without public discussion or scrutiny. They also point out there is the threat of restoring an older precedent: the practice of granting exemptions from building requirements readily and behind closed doors.

Rijna proposed mediation. The coalition parties met on May 23 and agreed to Rijna's plan to bring in a mediator, lock the doors, maintain media silence, and figure out how to break the deadlock. But so far no mediator has been found and no secret discussions have been held (as far as the public knows). Rijna has not been attending meetings.

The most obvious solution is to bring the matter before the full Island Council for a vote. That course is fraught with political danger, however, so MPB party leader Elvis Tjin Asjoe is reportedly trying to avoid a vote on the floor of the Island Council at any cost. A vote could split his party's coalition with the UPB.

The Partido Demokráitiko Boneriano (PDB) smells blood in the water. It has demanded copies of all documents relating to the development of Sunset Beach Resort, as well as "overviews of all decisions, correspondence as well as statements, both written and oral, by and towards the Executive Council or the Lieutenant Governor regarding the sale and/or development of Lot C on the site of the former Sunset Beach Resort, from January 2018." *DMR*.



For more views of the proposed five story Sunset Resort see. <https://www.bonaire-resorts.com/sunset-beach-resort>

Mauricio receives royal honors



Marcelino Mauricio receives the royal decoration from Lt. Gov. Rijna.

His Royal Highness King Willem Alexander has appointed Mr. Marcelino Mauricio as Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau. Mauricio has made an important contribution to the development and professionalization of mental health care and addiction care in the Caribbean Netherlands. His unbridled commitment to the less fortunate is admirable. He continuously works to minimize poverty on Bonaire. Outside his working hours, Mauricio helps youngsters and addicts, bringing them food, paying attention to them, coaching and motivating. Mauricio is also active in sports as a board member, volunteer at a football association and trainer/coach of various youth teams.

Real estate and construction used to launder money on Bonaire

Notice all the new buildings going up around the island? A National Risk Assessment on money laundering and terrorist financing has identified the construction and real estate sectors as the primary source of money laundering in the BES islands. Traders in building materials are now obliged to perform customer due diligence and to report unusual transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Netherlands, for cash payments above the limit of USD 11,000. Other relevant parties in the real estate chain—brokers, civil-law notaries, lawyers and banks—are already required to conduct customer due diligence and to report unusual transactions. *DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

Curaçao freezes Russian assets

The Curaçao government announced it has frozen more than \$43 million in assets owned by five Russians who had been sanctioned by the European Union. And the search is on in the CAS Islands for more assets hidden by Russian oligarchs.

The Aruban Ministry of Transport has identified nine aircraft registered in Aruba that are possibly connected with Russia, but none are on the island. Curaçao and Sint Maarten share a joint aircraft registry of approximately 25 aircraft. They say none are owned by Russians.

Sint Maarten seized a ship belonging to a sanctioned Russian individual located ashore on the island. Authorities on Aruba and Curaçao have looked for Russian owned vessels but found none.

Media in the Netherlands revealed recently that hundreds of Russians (often with unsavory backgrounds) were laundering billions by sub-licensing a Curaçao gambling permit to operate online gambling sites. Those people are not likely subject to the sanctions.

Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten are obliged to implement European Union sanctions only as entities separate from the Kingdom. The Netherlands has no legal authority to enforce the sanctions in the islands. But Minister of Foreign Affairs Wopke Hoekstra acknowledged that the islands have been sharing information with The Hague on a collegial basis. *DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)*

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

Week of May 30 - June 6, 2022

17 active cases (-13)	0 hospitalized 30 deceased
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- June 1, no health certificate is required for travel to Bonaire.
- Phone 0800 0800 for a test appointment.
- A person infected with the corona virus must be in isolation for five days. The close contacts or roommates of an infected person no longer need to be quarantined.
- Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

Our marine park manager speaks out

"Not everyday is Ocean Day, but we take care of the ocean everyday."

Judith Raming

With the population and construction of Bonaire booming, the climate crisis rising and a warming ocean, the role of Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) manager is indeed a challenge. But, former lawyer Judith Raming was looking to make a difference and in August 2020 she signed on for the job at BNMP.

Originally from The Hague, Judith moved to Bonaire five years ago after finding that working at a law firm was 'not her cup of tea.' She worked in tourism for a while and loved it but wanted to do something that fit more with her background.

In the first few months at BNMP, she worked with head ranger Din Domacasse, a 28 year BNMP veteran and Leonel Martijn, interim manager and seasoned dive professional to create a team that worked well together.

Part of the day to day business of the ranger team is maintaining the moorings and lines on mooring blocks. The team controls sargassum, checks the coral, ensures that boats don't hit the reefs, pick up garbage weekly from Klein and inspect building sites along the waterline and piers. The rangers also deal with people and collect their feedback.

Raming said, "My role is more like mandating all the nature regulations and a lot of it is creating policy. We want to do this with our local government, the harbour master and spatial planning."

She is also an extraordinary agent of the police, so all warnings and charges go to the public prosecutor and fines can be given. Raming works with the department of supervision and enforcement working in administra-



Judith Raming Photo Julie Morgan

tive law which is the law to stop the misdemeanors.

Raming said, "If an operator is not following the nature regulations, I give a warning. But if I see this happening again then I will close down your business or we are going to give you a penalty every time we see you acting that way again."

Raming is now writing new policy for the mooring field that later will be discussed with the local government. As Bonaire hosts more and more private and

commercial boats the mooring problems grow. Raming explained that private boats that don't know the regulations go to a mooring and stay for longer than the two appointed hours. Dive boats are unable to find an open mooring as they are taken by private or commercial boats. Since last October, rangers have been checking at 6, 8 and 10:30 a.m. to see if the previously moored boats are still there.

"I cannot place a ranger on every mooring. If you see this happening then let us know," said Raming. "But this is a short term fix, we would like to have a more permanent ranger present on Klein, but we had only five [rangers] and now we have eight."

Bonaire has 217 boat moorings of which there are three types: private 65-70; overnight 51 and public 96. Along the shoreline every boat on Bonaire can use a public mooring. A reservation for public moorings is being considered.

There has been some talk of the BNMP adding deep water moorings for larger yachts, but Raming said this is not happening. More people want private moorings too.

Raming said, "A lot of people want them and that is why we are creating a new mooring plan. For a deep-water mooring, permission is required from the Dutch ministry of infrastructure and water."

People would like to see more moorings set between the current moorings at Klein. But building more moorings will cause a loss of nature. Nature is also lost when we place a new mooring because we will have more boat traffic and more activity.

Raming has set a deadline to complete the new mooring field plan by the end of this year. It will then go to Spatial Planning and be returned to her for revisions with a possible completion date in 2023.

Sargassum, an ongoing problem to Bonaire's sensitive mangrove areas every spring is now seeing more support

Judith Raming, BNMP manager, continued on page 7

FOR SALE Crown Ridge 29 Modern Villa with Ocean View



- Located in Sabadeco, within walking distance to dive site Andrea I
- Lot size 766 m2 / 8245 sq. ft. - Built area 245 m2 / 2637 sq. ft.
- 3 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms / 1 guest toilet / laundry room
- Swimming pool with sundeck
- Spacious open floorplan

Virtual 3D tour



Asking price \$995,000 US Dollar

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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.

The real story of Plantation Bolivia

I hear and read a lot about the plans to develop the former Plantation Bolivia. I truly respect if anyone objects to the building of houses in this area, but it would help the overall conversation if, they stick to the facts and more importantly not to spread misinformation that in its turn creates a false dialogue. It amazes me, what is being said by people who have had no insight into the plans at this stage. I do. My family once owned the entire property. When it was bought by American investors back in the sixties, I kept a small part of equity ownership to be able to keep an oversight on what would be done with Bolivia in the future. For this same reason I have remained a minority shareholder in Bonaire Properties to keep an eye out on the plans, whereby for me the most important principles are does the development contribute to the prosperity and well-being of the Bonairean community; are nature and culture respected and are all laws and regulations complied with.

The Board of Bonaire Properties has signed a letter of intent with the OLB. The main content/purpose of this letter of intent, is that all laws and regulations have been and need to be complied with. Is that a reason, as I read to my amazement, to accuse the Executive Council of being bribed? If Bonaire Properties had bad intentions and the aim is to make as much money as possible, there would be an easier way: cut Bolivia into 600 lots and sell them to the highest bidders. That's what the current regulation allows.

The plans of Bonaire Properties show that only 10% of the total property is reserved for housing, agriculture, and ecotourism. The area allocated for this is situated in that part of Bolivia where the original nature has been destroyed by the grazing of goats and donkeys and the lack of maintenance of seasonal creeks (rooien). The latter also means that sediment can flow unhindered to the coral reefs during rainfall. Valuable cultural heritage such as plantation buildings is

in an abysmal state of decay. The site is being used for the dumping of waste and other illegal activities that are not being acted upon or protested against by those who say they have the best interests of Bolivia.

The statement made that nature is being destroyed is far from the truth. Continuing on this path means that even the last remnants of original nature will disappear in the coming years. Since the reality is that a huge part of Bolivia is undergoing major desertification. Fortunately, valuable nature is still present, such as beautiful parts of tropical dry forest and not in the least the caves with magnificent inscriptions and the home to large bat colonies. It goes without saying, that absolutely no development will take place there, other than improving, strengthening and managing natural values.

Development will take place there where the original nature has largely disappeared. In any case, allotments are made around trees and large cacti. Where else on Bonaire does that happen? In addition, 60% of each lot must remain green. The 90% of Bolivia where there will be no development, its nature will be restored and brought under professional management. Ecozones will be created between the new to build neighborhoods that form connections between the Washington-Slagbaai and Lac Bai nature reserves. The seasonal creeks (rooien) will be restored so that mud no longer flows to the coral reefs. Heritage will be restored as well.

Will the updated Bolivia become a reserve where wealthy foreigners retreat behind high walls like we see elsewhere on the islands? No. At the request of the Executive Council, the first 200 plots will be used to build affordable owner-occupied and rental homes for the local home seekers. Of course, development of more expensive lots will also take place, but it will not be allowed to erect high walls and fences around those properties either.

Does that sound too good to be true?

this matter.

June 4. Around 4 a.m. a collision took place at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina near the post office. The driver stated that she was arguing with the passenger, went into the corner too fast, and lost control of the steering wheel. The driver and passenger were treated on the spot by ambulance personnel after which the passenger was taken to hospital.

May 29. Early Sunday there were three accidents. Around 4:17 a.m. on Kaminda Sabana Piedra Krus the driver of a car lost control and drove into the mondi. He was taken to hospital by ambulance. At about 6:19 a.m. the police station received a report of a single-vehicle accident on Kaya Korona. Two occupants were taken to hospital for medical treatment.

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

When I sell my property on Bonaire, is there a certain time of year that is better than others to put it on the market? Jan

Hi Jan,

It used to be that summer and early fall was our "low season" and winter was the prime selling season. However, these days any time is a great time to sell. Due to the pent up demand for buying a vacation home, prospective buyers come to Bonaire to look at homes all year. The easiest home to sell is one that no one is staying in, since we can show it anytime. If you continue to rent to vacationers while your home is on the market, we suggest you advise them that the unit is for sale and ask for one day or time

Yes, that's what, in first instance, I thought. But while dealing with Meine Breemhaar in the many months of negotiations for the sale of Bolivia, it became evident to me that I was dealing with an innovative entrepreneur who also has an impressive track record of turning around and reopening failing businesses and property sites. To end this letter, of course, nobody has to believe my brown eyes, but I urge you to not judge until you know the facts of the project/developments and don't be misled by various

Time for Governor Rijna to cut his loses

IF the members of the Executive Council believe it would be good for Bonaire for the Sunset Beach Resort to add an unprecedented fifth floor to its buildings, the Executive Council has authority to allow the construction. According to Governor Rijna, that is the ruling of the Space & Development Department and his justification for voting to approve the building permit.

However, the Executive Council does not believe the construction would be a good idea. Half the council members voted no. Reportedly a majority on the Island Council have said they believe it would be bad for Bonaire. The general public seems to think it's a bad idea. For

A little later around 6:34 a.m. a hit & run took place on Kaya Korona. A car heading north from Playa collided with a parked car and drove on.

Traffic control

Traffic checks continue regularly. In recent days, fines ranging from \$30 to \$225 have been issued for driving without valid insurance documents, without a valid driver's license, for holding a phone while driving and for driving without a seat belt or helmet.

Public safety

May 27. The police station received a report around 3 p.m. that a lifeless body had been found in a house in Rincon. A patrol, personnel from the forensic department of KPCN and the medical examiner went to the scene. After a brief investigation, a 53-year-old man with initials A.E. was pronounced dead by the medical examiner.



L-R: Jean and Kate

each week when the unit can be shown during their stay. Otherwise it is difficult to show your property, and you may lose sales because a prospective buyer could not get in to see the unit while they were here.

*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.

people who pretend to know the plans when they in fact do not.

When the plans will be ready for decision-making, it is still early enough to form an opinion. If, after all the details become evident, you still feel negative towards the development of Bolivia, whereas I prefer to speak of rehabilitation on grounds of principle, that is of course your right, but do not contribute to spreading untruths

*Signed: Richard Hart
Former Lieutenant Governor Bonaire*

Governor Rijna the Sunset Beach Resort application has become a lose-lose proposition. The OLB is in crisis mode over the issue.

Governor Rijna should plead human error and accept what seems to be the clear will of the populace. He can say that, having heard people's objections, he has changed his mind and will withdraw his support of the Sunset Beach application.

Since 2014 Governor Rijna has been building an extraordinary stockpile of political good will by introducing good governance, progressive innovation, and transparency to Bonaire. But over several months that good will has been melting away as Governor Rijna has become more and more embroiled in justifying development decisions. *Don M. Ricks*

There are daily reports of aggressive stray dogs. Reports include dogs that bite goats and chickens to death, and dogs that attack drivers of bicycles / scooters. The number of incidents in which people are actually bitten and have to undergo medical treatment is increasing. The problem is complex and the working group of which KPCN is also a part is working on it.

However, a great responsibility also lies with the owners of dogs. Dogs should be fenced, socialized and trained. There are facilities for training on the island. Owners are responsible for the behavior and training of their dogs.

Contacting the police

911 (urgent or red-handed)
717 8000 or 715 8000 (no emergency)
9310 (anonymous tip line)

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

June 5. Thieves entered through a window at a restaurant on Kaya Grandi. They took, among other things, a safe containing cash.

Arrests

May 29. In the morning hours a house was searched in Antriol. During the search, a quantity of drugs was found. The drugs were seized and a man arrested under the Opium Act BES.

Traffic accidents/violations

June 8. A road user saw a person lying on the road of Kaya Korona with a scooter a few meters away. The scooter driver was taken to hospital in critical condition for medical treatment. The Traffic Department is investigating

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.



the houses, eco-resorts and the horticultural areas. Just think of all the roads that need to be built. This belongs to the category of ‘deceptive cleverness’.

The following statements belong to the category “Who believes it?” Hart writes that 60% of each lot must remain green. Unfortunately, this guarantees nothing at all. Green with what? Grass? Palms? Primroses? Or are the residents instructed to plant their gardens exclusively with local plants? And who is going to oversee that? Would Hart believe it himself?

And “The 90% of Bolivia where there is no development, nature will be restored and brought under professional supervision.” We have asked them before how they would implement such a claim. What will that professional supervision consist of and who guarantees that these supervisors can do their job properly? And who is going to protect all those newly planted trees against the eating by goats and donkeys and water them twice a day the first year? Do you believe that? We doubt it.

Hart then writes: “Only 10% is reserved for housing, agriculture, and ecotourism. This is situated in that part of Bolivia where nature has been devastated by the grazing of goats and donkeys and the failure to maintain the roi.’ (He forgets to mention again that he and his family were, or have been, responsible for the neglect.) However, Hart’s statement is inaccurate. When the developer’s map (Bureau Stedelijke Planning 2021) is placed on the map of Carmabi from 1998 (written by Debrot, De Freitas and Rojer), it is clear the developer’s map incorporates substantial areas that Carmabi indicated should be protected! This assertion of Hart therefore belongs to the category of ‘wrong’.

Then follows a threat: ‘Continuing as now means that the last remnants of original nature will also have disappeared in a number of years (sic!).’ The BC and we too fully agree, and that is why we are so happy with the policy that was started at the beginning of last year by the BC to bring the problem of free-range grazers in cooperation with the goat farmers under control within 5 years. So, this claim falls into the category of “false

scare tactics.”

In the same paragraph, Hart also claims that the plantation buildings are in disrepair, but again he forgets to say that he himself is or has been responsible for this. Then he talks about illegal dumping of waste that “those who say they have the best interests of Bolivia do not protest”. To begin with: Hart does not know at all what those ‘those’ do and do not protest against or for, but apart from that: he forgets to mention that 6 (!) special investigating officers for environmental matters have been appointed, who are not deployed as such at all and that it is the task of the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate to act on this and not of the citizens. And by the way: what did he do himself when he was still the owner? This one is from the ‘the pot calling the kettle black’ category.

And then an example from the category ‘forgetfulness’. Breemhaar’s first plans clearly stated that social housing would be built. There is nothing left of it at all. Hart talks about ‘200 affordable rental and owner-occupied homes for local home seekers’, but forgets to mention what is affordable. What it makes clear is that none of Breemhaar’s claims can be trusted. In January last year, the development of Davos at Sea was discussed. We are not forgetful.

Hart believes that Breemhaar is able to develop Bolivia in a responsible way because “he runs many companies in the Netherlands, including vacant business complexes that he has revived.” This claim belongs to the category of “gullible”. Running companies and breathing new life into empty industrial halls is quite different from plowing a nature reserve and developing a new residential area. This belongs to the category: ‘cobbler stick to your last’.

The solution for Bolivia is much simpler than Hart and Breemhaar propose: get rid of goats and donkeys, do nothing for 50 years and effectively monitor the area to prevent miscreants from destroying it. That’s all. Nothing more and nothing less. Too bad for Breemhaar and Hart: there is no money to earn from that. Bonaire does not need the development of Plantation Bolivia either. According to the draft Spatial Development Plan 2022, there are sufficient locations to meet Bonaire’s housing needs.

And finally an appeal: Dear Mr. Hart, do not contribute to spreading falsehoods and do not be gullible. It has nothing to do with the color of your eyes, but with your experience as a governor. Don’t just believe what is presented to you when it comes to money, a lot of money. You should know that from your previous experience. Naivety does not fit in this case.

Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia.

On the gap year

Letter to the Editor,

I’ll be the first to admit, I don’t know all the opportunities available on Bonaire for youth because of a language difference. But that doesn’t mean that I’m not concerned what happens to the youth. I’ve read about the ‘gap year’. This leads me to think what could be set up during that year to further them for future life. Creating new programs takes expertise and time but consider these suggestions.

1. A program whereas qualified, potential students enter an extra curriculum program during their final year of school to get credit in a specific field that they can carry over to the Netherlands where they enter advanced schooling. It could be a program to learn languages such as Dutch, Spanish, French, German, and yes, English. The students are already fluent in Papiamentu. The single program could be shared by all students in all the schools on Bonaire. It could be through the school systems coming together for the benefit of the student or a private enterprise provided by Professional Language Teachers.

2. The Gap Year. The same student could take a more advanced program in Languages. If they venture out into the wide world, they need foundation to carry them through challenges in other countries. Language can be a great barrier.

3. Community College. This is a program when students attend a local 2-year community college prior to going on into a 4-year college. They earn credits required by the advanced college so they are more prepared when going to The Netherlands. They do not struggle as much fitting into the Dutch way of doing things.

4. A Trade School. During the Gap Year, those students who do not intend to attend a college of any type, learn a trade that leads to a job at the conclusion of the course. Again, this could be instigated through the school system or as a private school with qualified instructors. It can be in Hospitality, Food preparation, repairing vehicles, air conditioners, IT training, et cetera. Bonaire has a need for all these skills.

Local organizations and individual could contribute to Scholarships to help the student defray costs to attend these courses. If one wants to raise the value of a person, they need to have the skills that allow them to

show their proficiency. A clause could be included in the student’s contract, that they spend 2 full years (their choice) on Bonaire to encourage other students to participate in these courses.

If Bonaire wants to continue building large complex buildings, create some that are educational in intent.

As an aside, I am not in favor of 4-story buildings. On the west side of the island, the sea cannot be seen for long stretches at a time, now. We don’t need to become a ‘Las Vegas’ or ‘Amsterdam’ to improve the quality of the people. They need education.

Earline Wasser

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Catalfumo celebrated on his 80th birthday

Al Catalfumo of the Black Durgeon Inn and Donkey Protection League celebrated his 80th birthday on June 4 with 300 of his closest friends. Al first visited Bonaire in the 70's and opened the Black Durgeon Inn in 1982 so he has collected a few like-minded friends and admirers throughout the years.

Party guests were welcomed to a cowboy themed party with many of the guests donning a cowboy hat as an homage to Al's signature look. Others got in the cowboy spirit by tying on one of the colorful bandanas available on the tables.

Guests enjoyed a full buffet prepared by friends, Joel and Ruth Kanasky, along with an open bar and four different types of cake. Country music set the mood of the celebration.

Before his many friends Al received several awards for his accomplishments and contributions to Bonaire including a thank you from Bonaire Marine Park manager, Judith Raming.

Tourism Corporation Bonaire's Helen Thode presented Al with their highest possible award, the Platinum Ambassador Award and a Certificate of Recognition for continuous and valuable support to the island of Bonaire.

He received a PADI Membership Achievement Award for his 50th Anniversary as a PADI member. He has actually belonged for 53 years so the organization was a bit late in getting the award to Bonaire. Al's PADI number is 984 but he was teaching scuba diving well before the professional dive organization existed.

Marine biologist and friend from New York, John Christopher Fine, honored Al by presenting him the rare United Nations World Environmental Medal. John and Al did a dive earlier in the day at Black Durgeon. Their last dive together was many years ago with their friend the late Captain Don Stewart.

Fellow friend to Bonaire's donkeys, Alvin Obersi, awarded Al a "Hero" Award for his dedication to Bonaire's economy, nature, culture, and heritage, noting his constant support of the island's endan-



Al with his granddaughter, Eloise.

gered Nubian donkeys.

But probably the presentation that put the biggest smile on the newly turned octogenarian's face was a song by his youngest of two granddaughters, Eloise.

With so much time on the barn styled stage, Al didn't miss the opportunity to speak of the importance of protecting Bonaire's Nubian donkeys.

Al said, "There is no reason in the world why they shouldn't be protected. The people of Bonaire want the donkeys. We shouldn't listen to someone that comes here and tells us the donkeys shouldn't be here...Nubian donkeys are not just on Bonaire but it is of international interest. We have wildlife herd management to help us, people that can hopefully change the minds of the people that make the decisions in government. The politicians need to listen to these people. We pay their salary and we can show them how to protect our donkeys."

The party was organized by Al's daughter Rona Aquilar and guests came from across the United States to celebrate their friend Al Catalfumo.

Story and photos Julie Morgan



TCB's Helen Thode presents Al with his awards from the Tourist Corporation Bonaire. .



Eugenie Clark immortalized on U.S. stamp

The United States postal service honored pioneer marine biologist Eugenie Clark (1922-2015) with the release of a commemorative 'forever' stamp on her 100th birthday (announced November 1, 2022). Bonaire's Dee Scarr of 'Touch the Sea' participated in her razorfish research in the mid-80's. Dee writes:

Dr. Eugenie Clark wrote two popular books early in her career, Lady with a Spear and The Lady and The Sharks (ironic titles to us on Bonaire!). The research Genie Clark did here was primarily on razorfish. Bonaire has all three species of Caribbean razorfish: green, rosy, and pearly. Conveniently, colonies of all three types can be found in the same area here, and often that area is easily accessible from shore and relatively shallow. She studied razorfish at Red Slave and inside the "L" of the South Pier.

When Clark began her career, most marine biologists worked with preserved animals. She preferred to study

live creatures in their natural habitats. For example, it was Clark who discovered that hamlets are simultaneous hermaphrodites (each is functionally male and female at the same time). Each of a pair of hamlets changes sex one or more times during a single spawning event. When asked how they decided who was which and when, Clark responded, "The one who is most swollen with eggs gets to be the female first."

Clark studied sharks underwater as well as in laboratory tanks. In all of those experiences with sharks, she was only injured one time: as she was driving to present a lecture on sharks, the car in front of her stopped suddenly. She stopped suddenly, too, and a shark's jaw – teeth attached! – flew out of her lecture materials and landed on her arm.

Eugenie Clark was an amazing woman, scientist, and human being. Search her name online to learn more details.

Dee Scarr



WATER- EN ENERGIEBEDRIJF BONAIRE

Public tender construction new head office WEB Bonaire



Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. (WEB) is having a new head office built at the Kaminda Djabou in Kralendijk. For the award of this project WEB organizes a public tender. The closing date is Juli 6, 2022.

SUMMARY
The new office building will have a gross floor area of approximately 1,200 m² GFA and must provide space for at least 63 WEB employees and customers who visit the head office. Expansion possibilities must be taken into account.

It is a functional building with conscious application of sustainable materials and cost-saving elements. The scope of the contract includes the constructional realization and mechanical and electrical installations.

DETAILS AND PARTICIPATION
For further project details, information about the tender procedure and registration please send an email to: procurement@webbonaire.com. You will then receive the tender documents. The closing date for applications for the tender documents is June 13, 2022. The closing date for participation in the tender is July 6, 2022.

ABOUT WEB BONAIRE
Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. was founded in 1963 and is owned by the Public Entity Bonaire. As an 'exclusive' multi-utility company, WEB is responsible for the sustainable, reliable and affordable supply of drinking water and electricity to more than 20,000 households, companies and organizations on the island of Bonaire. Since 2013, the service has been expanded to include the collection and treatment of wastewater and the distribution of irrigation water. WEB invests in energy from renewable sources and is independently producing drinking water since 2021. The WEB team currently consists of 150 employees.



from the government. Oil booms are used to curtail the sargassum invasions and heavy equipment is required to remove it. Volunteers have made the difference. They rake and remove the seaweed and then heavy equipment removes it.

Raming said, "We have ordered 650 m [of oil booms] and this year the government has ordered 500 m more. I don't know if this is going to happen yet, but we expect it."

Stinapa recently released the information that during hurricane season overnight moorings will be \$11 per night. The extra dollar is a pumpout fee for the boats. All boats from September 1 on without a holding tank are not allowed in the mooring field and must go to the marina.

A proposal for a \$45 per night fee was met with contention from Bonaire's yachting community when announced last year. The \$45 was a calculation to fund facilities for trash, fresh water and showers. The fee of \$45 was actually a proposal to the local government which has yet to be approved and is subject to compromise.

Kite surfers are yet another big issue for the marine park and the Bonaire government. There have been several incidents where kitesurfers have wandered from their designated area at Kite City and had near misses with divers. The kites want more space and permanent facilities. The government is doing environmental studies as their current site is a Ramsar area that protects flamingos and sea turtles. Traditionally it is has been a site for fishermen huts.

Raming explained that government representatives Frank van Slobbe, deputy Hennyson Thielmans and Debbie Rauwers have met with the kite surfer association representative Audra Groeneboord.

Consideration is being given to allow the kites from Tori's Reef to Belnem. Raming was unable to comment as consideration is ongoing.

"Now we have to deal with foiling and major complaints due to the danger to divers. Also looking at whether we really want this in our marine park. We want to inform people and regulations of the Article 3 of island regulations," said Raming.

As per the marine park rangers, they can charge violators with a misdemeanor for kitesurfing, spearfishing, dog walking, snorkel fishing and trespassing in Pikelmeer. Anyone who receives a 'ticket' must go to the office of the public prosecutor where a fine is decided.

"What I am trying to do is set a fine. If someone walks a dog where it is not allowed, the fine is \$175 for now. I'm still waiting for other fines. Trespassing in flamingo areas is for the police and other organizations. With so many involved, sometimes it makes it where no one does anything," said Raming.

Stinapa set up a Reef Ranger course last October for divemasters. Working divemaster/instructors can take the class giving them the legal right to approach people who break the rules and regulations of the marine park. Divemasters/Instructors must sign up with OLB and then go to Stinapa for their permit.

In her many dealings with the government Raming said, "It is a pleasure to work with many people in government. I am really proud of the no more single use plastic work done. When you look at the people you work with, they are all pro-nature. But if you drag nature into politics then that doesn't work."

Story and photo Julie Morgan

Swimming Cross the Oceans in Bonaire

During the month of May, project leader of the Caribbean Islands Manta Trust Nicole Pelletier and Molly Jakubowski swam the waters of Bonaire to help save manta rays from extinction in the Cross the Oceans 2022 challenge.

This is a worldwide event for manta lovers. Participants swim, run, bike, kayak and even paddle board in the virtual challenge. The Cross the Oceans challenge began in the United Kingdom with a destination of 3,464 miles (5,575 km) to the Azores. Because the event is virtual, people from all over the world get involved setting an individual distance goal and each participant's miles add up to the final distance. Manta lovers can visit the Just Giving site and pledge monetary support for the Manta Trust.

Nicole set a goal of swimming 50 km and a target of 750 English pounds and she is 86% of the way there. Mollie set up her own challenge and together they have swam the challenge. On several occasions they have been joined by other manta lovers.

Nicole said, "There are a lot of us participating. It's not just where the Manta Trust locations are, but everywhere."

Although the challenge was for a month, Nicole didn't quite reach her goal



L-R Molly Jakubowski and Nicole Pelletier.

so she and Mollie are still swimming.

If you would like to help Nicole reach her goal and support the manta rays, go to <https://www.JustGiving.com> and search for Nicole Pelletier.

Nicole moved to Bonaire in October 2022 as project leader for the Caribbean Islands Manta Trust. She works as a full-time dive instructor and does manta presentations every Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Yellow Submarine. Nicole is also available to give presentations for other groups or organizations. Contact Nicole by email at nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org

Story & photo Julie Morgan



Did You Know? *that plastics may impact human health?*

We've all heard of the dangers discarded plastic, like straws and plastic bags, can pose to marine wildlife. But did you know that plastics may also impact human health?

For decades the seas have been the official and unofficial dumping grounds of man-made trash. The impacts of this attitude are clear to see since even in the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the world, plastic litter can be found. In 2019 a plastic grocery bag had the dubious honor of being the deepest known piece of plastic trash found, discovered at a depth of over almost 11,000 meters. Almost everyone has seen pictures of animals, ranging from turtles to birds, entangled in plastic debris. There are also plenty of studies that have examined the stomach contents of various animals and found plastic. If you look at some of the marine litter facts it is no wonder that we are being urged to reduce our consumption of single use plastics. The International Union for the Conservation

of Nature (IUCN) estimates that over 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean



every year and that over 80% of the litter found in the ocean is plastic. We've all heard the dire prediction that by 2050 there will be more plastic by weight than fish in our oceans.

But plastics are not only a concern for marine life and marine pollution. Some recent studies looking at what the consequences of our plastic addiction could be on our health found that 80% of people tested had plastic in their blood in the form of microplastics. All plastic products are created by stringing together long

chains of molecules called polymers. To help keep these polymers together and shape the plastic for its intended use, manufacturers also commonly add many different chemicals. When a plastic product degrades these chemicals will leak out of the plastic and into the surrounding environment. We know that some of these added chemicals can be hazardous to animal and human health. When plastic breaks down, the polymers come apart forming tiny particles called microplastics. These are so small that you can't see them with the naked eye and can be found everywhere: in sediments, on the sea surface, in the water column and in wildlife. We have known for a long time that many marine organisms contain plastic in their stomachs as well as microplastics in their gills and muscles. Surveys have found that as many as one in every three fish had some sort of plastic in their tissues. Unfortunately, most animal bodies have no way of getting rid of these tiny particles so they accumulate and can cause issues with muscle functioning, mental abilities and even impact fish reproduction.

We have known for a while that the

problem is not just limited to marine animals. Most of us are exposed to microplastics in the air we breathe, what we drink, as well as the food we eat. The plastic these scientists found in human blood originated from drink bottles, food packaging and plastic grocery bags. Finding microplastic particles in our blood means that these particles can move around our bodies and migrate to different organs. It is still unclear what this could mean for our health, but some studies have already shown that microplastics can alter the shape of our lung cells. More concerning is that a research team has observed microplastics ending up all the way into the brains of mice! Once in the brain, they accumulated in a group of cells that play a vital role in keeping the nervous system healthy.

Single use plastic bans may be costly, as well as an inconvenience, but in the long run they may be what is best not just for nature, but also for our own health.

Written by Roxanne-Liana Francisca. STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature

Bonaire has been a haven for underwater photographers since the 70's when Geri Murphy's amazing images graced the pages of Skin Diver magazine. Divers became photographers and Bonaire became one of the most sought after destinations for dive photography and eventually photo contests. The cameras have changed from film to digital but once again Bonaire is hosting an underwater photo contest or shootout.

The Backscatter Digital Shootout is being held now from June 4 – June 18 at Divi Flamingo Resort. This shootout is number 19 and the ninth visit to Bonaire since the event began in 2003 by cofounders Berkley White, Backscatter owner and Dan Baldocchi of Under Exposures.

According to White, Bonaire is the number one request as a shootout destination by photographers due to flexibility of diving.

With World Ocean Day being June 8 and Bonaire being a hallmark for marine con-

servation since the days of Captain Don Stewart, White and Baldocchi stressed that photographers must be responsible in their photo practices.

"We encourage people to do the right thing. Back in the Nikonos Shootout days, people did whatever they could to get a photo due to the contest pressure. We don't want to see any stressed animals or non-typical animal behavior. We want the divemasters to preach and teach correct behavior and enforce the rules and we will back it up. We have a three strikes and you are out policy...If they improve their dive skills they can take better photos," said White.

Some sixty divers are registered over the two week shootout with a staff of 20. The shootout team is made up of some pretty heavy hitters from the world of underwater photo and video. Participants mostly beginner to intermediate level will be led through lectures, workshops, critiques, digital darkroom and customized one on one sessions.

Pros from the underwater photo world assisting in the shootout are: Jim Decker, Robin Dodd, Dylan Silver, Erin Quigley, Cristian Dimitrius, Joel Penner, Jennifer Penner, Hergen Spalink, Todd Winner,



Carlos Quilichini, Elisa Isotta and Andrea Comerlati, Davide Lombroso, Marissa Wiganowske, Brett Kotheimer and of course Berkley White and Dan Baldocchi.

Participants will come equipped with their own gear but Backscatter has brought 1800 lbs of the latest equipment for demo from Nauticam, Issita and Olympus along with cameras and lenses for participants to try.

Great prizes including housings, strobes,

accessories, land and liveaboard dive trips can be won in several different categories of macro, wide angle and fixed lens photography.

The best in show, Jim Watt award, named for photographer Jim Watt, icon and mentor to many in the underwater photography world could be awarded in any category. Watt was actually the idea man behind the very first digital shootout.



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Raspa or Porterweed

This beautiful branching shrub with purple or blue flowers grows in a lot of yards on Bonaire. The flowers are as blue as the ocean and because June 8 is World Ocean Day, I thought I'd connect this day with a plant that has the color of the sea. On Bonaire we just call the plant Raspa. It belongs to the Porterweed (Raspa) family and comes in three colors. There is the red one called *Stachytarpheta mutabilis*, the *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* with blue flowers and *Stachytarpheta urticifolia* the purple one. Raspa is a beloved garden plant on Bonaire because it attracts butterflies and a lot of birds including hummingbirds. The red one is the strongest and its seeds create new plants. This red one is better in drought conditions than the other two color types. The red variation is also big-

ger, growing to a height of 1.5 meter (4.9 ft) and also 1.5 meter wide (4.9 ft.).

The Raspa doesn't need much maintenance. Just remove the dried flower parts so it will flower again. If you totally trim it, then it takes time to flower again and you will miss the visits of hummingbirds and butterflies in your yard.

The plants last only a few years and then they start struggling and it's time for a new plant.

The red Raspa can stand full sunlight but needs water every day and sometimes twice. New plants from purple and blue raspa are grown through cuttings. A cutting grows the best in times of less stress, in some shade and out of the wind. A little bit of honey on the underside of the root will help the cutting to grow and that's no joke. Keep an eye on water-



Purple Raspa, *Stachytarpheta urticifolia*.

ing, too little dries out the roots and too much leads to rotten roots. Often in the first week the cutting looks miserable but then slowly it catches up.

One can also find nice flowering plants in the local markets. I often see them at the market in front of Selibon and also on

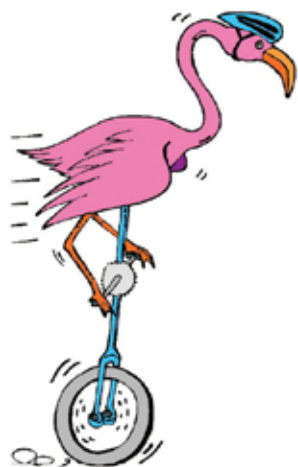
LVV Open Day market.

You can grow them in pots or straight in the ground. I have the red and blue one in big pots but my neighbor filled a big part of her front flower garden with the blue one which sometimes looks like the blue surface of the ocean. It's really amazing how many butterflies and hummingbirds hang around there (and also some cats). It makes a nice ground cover when there is a lot together.

So, for many reasons it's a nice flowering plant in your garden and a nice big plant as a gift. Give it a try, just do it.

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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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Kon ta bai?

If you ask somebody how he or she is, often you do so without thinking. You ask because that is what you are supposed to do as simple courtesy. But it also depends where you are from. Because a simple question like this can be experienced as a nosy question in another country or culture.

Life can make the most interesting and surprising changes. What seems to be bad luck, seems a blessing later on. This is what most elderly feel. Especially the elderly who are lonely.

What one really wants to know is how you are doing. Are you happy? Or are you loved? How do you feel? The rest does not seem to be important.

Having a buddy is a blessing in situations like this. Because the buddy that is assigned to a lonely elderly

person really cares and is interested.

This buddy comes in and does not really care about the weeds in the garden, the unwashed dishes in the sink, the pile of dirty clothes or the same dress that has been worn for days.

The buddy takes the empty glass to the sink and comes back to the table and wonders if she can help out a bit by washing a few dishes. That way the elder does not have to be ashamed.

This buddy notices that the elderly is looking a bit pale or is trembling a bit and offers a carefully packed snack and a pack of juice and says, "Look, I brought a little something for you to enjoy."

The buddy talks about the services available for the elderly and offers to contact them on behalf of him or her and arranges a social worker to come and visit and access the situation.

This buddy comes and says, "I bet you have not been out for a while. Come in the car with me and let's go for a ride or let's go to Hofi Kultural and listen to the music they make there. Or if you want you can take your embroidery or crochet-work and we can join a small group

of people that get together every week. I bet you know some of them. You can enjoy the company and you might love to go again."

This buddy really cares and the elderly person learns to trust her, is happy every time they get together and looks forward to it.

The elderly needs security and people they can trust and rely on. And that is what these buddies do and love to do. These buddies really care. They make the world a little better.

And that is what elderly people deserve. They have taken care of others for all their lives. All they need now is all the love, attention and company they need and should be assured that this will continue and not be stopped because of lack of funds.

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

Aquatic Ape Hypothesis

The ocean and us, a long-lasting connection.

Most of us feel a very strong attraction towards water. In honor of World Oceans Day, in this article I am going to share what has come to be called the Aquatic Ape Hypothesis (AAH).

In 1990, French obstetrician well known for in water childbirth, Dr. Michel Odent (born 1930) authored the book "Water, Birth and Sexuality". He shared how he first noticed the strong attraction that many women have toward water during labor. Odent mentioned in the book the work of Elaine Morgan (1920-1913) who considered the possibility of an ancestral Homo as an aquatic ape particularly adapted to coastal areas.

Morgan was aware of the ideas of marine biologist Sir Alister Hardy (1896-1985). In 1930 Hardy had come across the work of Wood Jones (1879-1954), an anthropologist and anatomist, who had wondered why humans, unlike the rest of the primates, had a layer of subcutaneous fat. Being a marine biologist, Hardy related it to the fat of aquatic mammals. This, together

with the almost total absence of fur, turned out to be a very particular characteristic among the apes. Fearing the backlash of the academy, he kept his hypothesis quiet for almost 30 years. When he shared them in a presentation at the British Sub-Aqua Club they were not well received by the scientific establishment which held to the theory of primate descent from the trees to the savannah. Many years later, in the 1990s, the savannah thesis was discarded since paleontological evidence placed its formation later than the evolutionary changes that separated us from the rest of the primates.

In Morgan's book "The Aquatic Ape" (1982) she queries why; if our genome is so similar to that of chimpanzees, do we look so different? We walk upright on two limbs and have no fur, while chimpanzees are quadrupeds and furry.

It is a fact that many of the aquatic relatives of certain species have lost their fur, such as dugongs, walruses, dolphins, hippos, and manatees. Elephants and rhinos have aquatic ancestors, which would explain their lack of fur. Not all aquatic animals lack fur, but its absence is conditioned as an adaptation to the aquatic environment. Another feature is bipedalism, although other primates can do it optionally, they all do it without exception when they wade in water.

The subcutaneous fat layer is also a feature that favors life in an aquatic environment, due to its thermal insulation capacity, streamlining, buoyancy and energy

reserve.

The ability to breath hold at will is only observed in mammals and seabirds. In marine mammals, the nose seems to have valves that close the entrance of water, however this occlusion is produced by relaxing the muscles of the nostrils. Humans have the ability to enlarge the nostrils with those same muscles.

Morgan summed up her take on the hypothesis in 2011: "Waterside hypotheses of human evolution assert that selection from wading, swimming and diving and procurement of food from aquatic habitats have significantly affected the evolution of the lineage leading to Homo sapiens as distinct from that leading to Chimpanzees and Bonobos"

Although many scientists flirt with this hypothesis and there is no evidence against it, the scientific establishment still doesn't consider it plausible.

If you want to learn more about this subject, check the above-mentioned publications as well as "The birth of Homo, the Marine Chimpanzee" by Michel Odent published in 2017 and "The Waterside Ape" by Dr Peter H Rhys-Evans released in 2018.

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.



Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) recently recognized seven visitors from the United States as Bonaire ambassadors in the bronze, silver and gold categories.

- John Dedeian has been visiting Bonaire for 12 consecutive years. He received a bronze pin.
- Mike Smith, Peggy Mongrue and Carol Lucas have been visiting Bonaire for 16 years. They received a silver pin.
- Christine Johnson was awarded a gold pin for her 20 years visiting Bonaire.
- James and Deborah Mensay were both awarded a gold pin for visiting Bonaire for 25 years.

TCB thanks all the ambassadors for choosing Bonaire to celebrate their holiday.

L-R: Debbie and James Mensay, Claire Sealy of Captain Don's Habitat, Christine Johnson and Helen Thode of TCB. Photo TCB

Del Mar and Pink Coral iT open new space

The newest additions to Del Mar Bookstore and Pink Coral iT were realized on June 4 with the grand opening of their divided upstairs space for IT service and an art studio with supplies.

In the new space, Pink Coral displays advanced network cabling, Wi-Fi solutions and security systems hardware that can now be installed by owner and Apple tech, Francis den Doelder, in homes or businesses.

Del Mar Bookstore has turned their half of the space into a studio filled with art supplies from Royal Talens. Owner Patricia Joven will be offering art classes for beginner to advanced from local and visiting artists from the Netherlands.

Del Mar and Pink Coral iT are located at Kaya Soeur Bartola 13A. The businesses are open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. More information at info@delmar-bonaire.com and info@pinkcoral-it.com. Call Del Mar at 717-6618 and Pink Coral at 777-4749. Online *Reporter* readers can quickly visit their website/Facebook page by clicking on their ads.

Owners Patricia Joven and Francis den Doelder officially open the new addition to Del Mar Bookstore and Pink Coral iT. Photo Julie Morgan



The Bonaire Reporter June 8 - June 22, 2022

Tanker sinks north of Curaçao

On May 28th the tanker *Cetus* sank 250 kilometers north of Curaçao. Fourteen crew members and a dog were rescued. Two crew members are missing. A significant oil slick is forming and ships passing through the area are asked to keep the Curaçao Coast Guard informed about the location of the spill as it spreads.

The Coast Guard sent a Dash patrol plane. It found several people floating in the water on inflatable fenders. The plane dropped two inflatable life rafts, then a second patrol plane was sent to monitor the situation.

Two other tankers, the *Melba* and the *Stavange*, arrived and took the *Cetus* survivors aboard. The two tankers transported the rescued sailors to Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago, their respective destinations.

The sunken tanker is 268 feet long and left a significant oil slick. Ships passing through the area are asked to contact the Curaçao Coast Guard so it can track the location of the spill. *DMR*

Yachts must soon pump out sewage at marina

A sewage pump-out facility is ready for use at Harbour Village Marina. Cruisers are encouraged to start using it now. After September 1, its use will be mandatory. Cruisers will have to keep their overboard discharge valves closed and pump out their waste water tanks at the Marina. They are presently paying for the service via a \$1 service charge that has been added temporarily to the \$10 per night mooring fee.

In another new ruling, STINAPA now requires yacht captains to leave the moorings and take their vessels offshore or into the marina when the wind blows out of the southwest stronger than force 5 on the Beaufort scale. Force 5 is a 17-21 knot “fresh breeze.” The anchorage is dangerously exposed when the wind is blowing onshore.

Yacht owners and business owners have been asking for clarity since STINAPA announced its intention to change overnight mooring policies and fees during a stakeholder’s session December. The issue took on new urgency as more yachts began to arrive at Bonaire, a popular and safe destination to stay over during the hurricane season. *DMR*

Schiphol mobbed, KLM taking drastic measures

Large crowds of passengers have been clogging Schiphol airport because of a surge in the number of people traveling and a shortage of ground personnel.

KLM is banning hand luggage to open up the worst choke point, the security gates. It has also reduced the number of tickets for sale in the immediate future and changed the rules for take-off and landing rights to reduce the number of flights that depart this summer. People who decide to change their travel plans can rebook free of charge or request a voucher. *DMR*

Bonaire has pilotage and tug shortage

Bonaire requires ships to enter the harbor under control of a pilot, including the Don Andres roll-on/roll-off vessels that regularly transport containers from Curaçao. But because the island has only two pilots, many arriving ships have to enter the harbor under their own captaincy. Nevertheless, they are required to pay the compulsory pilotage fee.

Bonaire cannot offer visiting ships regular tug service either. Although a KTK tugboat is stationed on Bonaire, it is expensive and available only for incidental service by special arrangement because a crew has to fly over from Curaçao.

According to a report by the Port of Amsterdam International, these shortfalls create unjustified costs for shipping for Bonaireans. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management says that maritime legislation in the Caribbean Netherlands needs to be updated. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Waste water treatment to be dispersed

A pilot project is testing the feasibility of treating waste water at multiple locations on the island. Decentralized treatment would eliminate the need to expand the sewer network across the entire island. Efforts are also being made to reuse the treated effluent in order to respond to water scarcity. *DMR*



David Winklaar ran the 30 k Walk-a-thon in two and half hours. Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire once again showed their true spirit of giving and compassion by contributing and taking part in the Special Olympics Walk-a-thon on June 5. This was year 19 for the event. An amazing 775 tickets were sold along with a \$52 cash donation and 498 physically participated. People ran, walked, biked and one person even roller bladed the 30 km (18.64 m) trek from White Slave to the finish at Rincon’s historic St. Louis Bertrand Church.

For the most part the Walk-a-thon ran smoothly with the exception of a bike on bike accident resulting in some minor injuries.

Some 40 volunteers helped the participants at various stations along the way by providing water, fruit and snacks to keep them energized and hydrated.

Coming in as the first runner, David Winklaar ran the entire route in 2 hrs and 30 minutes.

The Special Olympics Walk-a-thon is sponsored by Digicel (12 yrs), Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, Guardian Group and new sponsors MCB, Ennia and NAPA.

Congratulations to all participants for taking part in the Bonaire Special Olympics Walk-a-thon 2022.

Special Olympics is an international organization that prepares children and adults with intellectual disabilities to compete in various sports disciplines. All funds raised in the walk go to preparing Bonaire’s athletes and cover travel expenses to for international competitions. The next World Games is in Germany 2023.

Photo & story Julie Morgan

More photos of the Walkathon are posted on The Bonaire Reporter Facebook page.

THE DEADLY TRIO OF GLOBAL WARMING acidification, warming and a decreasing oxygen level

Acidification, warming and a decreasing oxygen level, called the deadly trio, are three trends in the world’s oceans with major consequences for marine life. In 2021, acidification and warming reached new records, the World Meteorological Organization reported last week in the State of the Global Climate 2021 report. Strangely enough, the report said nothing about the decreasing oxygen level.

The oceans are warming because they absorb almost all the extra heat (more than 95%) that collects under the thickening layer of greenhouse gases on the Earth’s surface. This buffer effect slows down the warming of the atmosphere, but there is a limit.

The more CO₂ that ends up in the ocean, the more acidic the water becomes. And that has far-reaching consequences for marine life. Many aquatic organisms – including plankton and corals – have a calcareous skeleton that dissolves in an acidic environment.

The creatures most affected by acidification are mollusks with shells (e.g. clams, oysters), creatures with exoskeletons (e.g. starfish) and ecosystems reliant on skeletal

structures (e.g. coral reefs).

The decrease in oxygen levels is partly due to the increasing stratification of the water. The upper, oxygen-rich layer becomes sweeter, due to the increasing influx of meltwater from the land and increasing precipitation. In contrast the deeper, oxygen-poor, salty water becomes stronger.

“The mixing of the layers decreases, so that oxygen does not penetrate into deeper waters as easily,” according to Caroline Slomp, professor of marine biochemistry in Utrecht [*].

In coastal areas there is also pollution, coastal development and discharge of nutrients from agriculture, that stimulates algae growth on the water surface. When the algae die and sink, they are broken down by bacteria, a process that consumes oxygen. Because there are more algae, the degradation and the oxygen consumption increase. As a result, a zone without oxygen, a dead zone, grows in size. “Many organisms, such as fish, swim around them.”

Together, this deadly trio is causing so many changes in the oceans that not all plants and animals can adapt to it.

“The great climate die-off in the seas has begun,” according to professor of marine biology Hans-Otto Pörtner of the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven [*].

The warm water corals are the most striking example. They are already suffering greatly from warming and the increasing frequency of sea heat waves. A large part of the species is expected to become extinct this century due to further warming. While coral reefs are home to a quarter of marine biodiversity and protect the coasts from wave action. (*NRC, May 27, 2022)

The deadly trio comes on top of existing pressures on marine life: overfishing, pollution, coastal development, erosion, nutrient runoff from agriculture and cities.

If you think this doesn’t affect me, wake up! The deadly trio not only affects the oceans but affects the entire food chain, including humans.

The question we must ask ourselves: are we good ancestors?

Wilma Nijland


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>.

**Echo Conservation Tours** - weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at info@echobonaire.org

**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.

BONAIRE RUM WEEK

<https://www.bonaireumweek.com>

Tuesday, June 14 - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Rum Runners Kick off Bonaire Rum Week 2022 with Aruba's Papiamento Rum in an oceanfront setting at Bonaire's most famous bar.

Wednesday, June 15

- 3 p.m. - Plaza Beach & Dive Resort, Rum on the Beach** Presented by Rum San Pablo. Local music by Silverbullet Steelband. banqueting.events@plazabeachresort-bonaire.co RSVP only.
- 7 p.m. Cocktail Competition** Presented by Diplomático Bonaire's top mixologists face off at the Tiki & Co cocktail bar in Kralendijk.

Thursday, June 16

- 12 p.m. Rum Lunch at Harbour Village Beach Club** (RSVP to rsvp@caribjournal.com) Star Chef Britt Thomassen serves up a rum-infused lunch at the beachfront La Balandra restaurant
- 5 p.m. Rum Happy Hour on the waterfront at Buddy Dive** Resort's Blennies Restaurant & Bar. Try the Caribbean's top spiced rum, the Nevis-made Clifton Estate Rum, the award-winning expression by Mark Theron, in a waterfront happy hour set at Blennies Restaurant & Bar at Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire. Presented by Clifton Estate

Friday, June 17

- 11 a.m. Rum Tasting Workshop** open for only Bartenders (RSVP only rsvp@caribjournal.com)
- 5-7 p.m. Rum Happy Hour at The Gardens** at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort Presented by Rom Rincon RSVP to fandb@diviflamingo.com.
- 8 p.m. Multi-Course Rum Culinary Experience at Brass Boer**, Delphins Beach Resort (rsvp@caribjournal.com) RSVP only
- 10 p.m. Cigars and Papa's Pilar Rum** on the Sand at Delphins Beach • • Resort rsvp@caribjournal.com. RSVP only

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)

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 Gramel 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. For persons older than 18 years a membership costs \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and nonfiction 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.

Saturday, June 11	Taste of Bonaire 2022 (Talent Edition) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
Sunday, June 12	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
June 14 - 17	Bonaire Rum Week. Opening party, followed by an island-wide cocktail competition, 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.bonaireumweek.com
Thursday, June 16	World Refill Day https://www.refill.org.uk/world-refill-day/ BMP Clean-up Klein Bonaire. Contact the Bonaire Marine Park.
Friday, June 17	Meet the Artist: Valerie Wolf. 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, June 25	Nos Zjilea Festival 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.

Tentative cruise ship schedule June					
DAY & DATE:	DD/MM	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Tuesday	14-06	<i>Explorer of the Seas</i>	0800-1800	3938	RCCL/CEL
Thursday	23-06	<i>Mariner of the Seas</i>	0700-1400	4001	RCCL/CEL

Delphins win medals at Curaçao

From May 27 to 29 Delfins Swimming Club Bonaire competed in Curaçao's Hesley Heerenveen swimming tournament. The swim club returned with 23 medals, 23 pennants and two highest point trophies:

- Chenice Bergman Oosterlee 4x gold, 2x silver, 1x bronze
- Tyzick Pourier 2x Gold, 2x Silver, 2x Bronze, 2nd Highest point trophy
- Faricha Bergman Oosterlee 3x silver, 3x bronze, 3rd Highest point trophy
- Vyenne Winklaar 1x silver
- Tarik Bergman Oosterlee 2x bronze
- Sujay Henriquez 1x bronze

Many pennants were obtained by: Shanique Angela, Jordan Pourier, Najenah Pourier, Tarcilion Morillo, Klayvin Espinal and Ramson Pikerie. Trainer Marylou Felida said that almost everyone achieved a personal record or a good first time. She is looking forward to the next



tournament, the Aruba Dolphins Invitational.
Delfins Swimming Club Bonaire would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution: Public body Bonaire, Wega di number, Real Dutch Bakery, FXDC Communications and Rocargo.



Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

World Oceans Day

After the waves from Hurricane Lenny surprised the heck out of us here on Bonaire's "protected" west coast, I noticed three legs of a plastic outdoor chair sticking out of a sand-and-rubble bottom. On one of those legs a small brain coral began to grow, and I began looking for it on each dive there. I was devastated the first time I found it bleached, and delighted when it gradually got its color back. When I suggested that divers pick a specific coral formation to watch, this one was a natural for me. Since it's a round coral colony growing on top of a stick-like chair leg – like a Tootsie Roll Pop -- I named it Tootsie.

Over the years, Tootsie has grown to soccer-ball size, and bleached and recovered at least four times! Dozens of coral polyps and even entire colonies die from the effects of bleaching, yet Tootsie's polyps, and thousands of individual coral animals in other colonies, recover.

In honor of World Ocean Day, I'm going to focus on the incredible ability, which we don't hear much about these days, of marine inhabitants to incorporate/deal with/survive/overcome "gifts" manufactured and delivered by human beings.

For example, in Belnem there's a rope grid that was placed over a huge section of reef about 30 years ago. I remember a 1980's group that set up research projects between scientists and regular people (the beginnings of the citizen scientist concept): the scientist would develop the project, the people would help with the research and the fees they paid would help support the project. The underwater research project on Bonaire was so pop-



This silhouette of Janet Thibault beneath our Old Pier was taken more than 25 years ago and there's lots of high-profile growth on the pilings.. Photo by Dee Scarr

ular they probably left the grid from year to year to make things easier for themselves. Maybe it didn't even cross their minds that the reef would eventually incorporate their grid – but it did. Gloriously healthy stony coral colonies have overgrown much of the grid. The grid was never good for the coral, but the resilient coral wasn't bothered by the grid very much over the years.

Much more recently, the Salt Company decided to replace the thick chains that provide security for any ship at their pier during a major storm. There was so much coral and other natural growth on the chain that the Salt Company and BNMP decided to leave it down rather than relocate all the colonies, associations, and critters who were attached to it.

Shipwrecks are the best-known examples of how the marine world can incorporate human-made items. The Hilma Hooker was fortuitously confiscated during the time when Bonaire had been seeking a ship to sink for divers. Our "natural" shipwreck, the Windjammer, at over 180' (55 m) was too deep for sport diving. The Hooker was cleaned up, opened up, and allowed to become an accessible underwater wreck for Bonaire divers. (No one was interested in my counter-proposal of advertising Bonaire

as "Wreckless Diving." Ah well.)

To me, the most amazing combinations of human-made items and marine animal incorporation are – of course – pier pilings, especially on Bonaire, where the waters around the piers are clear and clean. Manta, eagle, and southern rays have all been seen around our piers at some time or another; green, spotted, and chain morays enjoy the pier environment; schools of grunts and snappers often reside around piers.

All those fishes around and beneath piers naturally attract people who fish,

and fishers can't help but have line entanglements on the pilings and the nearby reef – and line entanglements can mean death by drowning to sea turtles. Under the Salt Pier, where diving is allowed, many divers remove any line they see. This is more difficult under our North (aka Old and Town Pier) and South (aka New and Customs) Piers, since diving is prohibited there. However, the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), with special permission, collects fishing line around the piers in organized fishing line cleanups. If you want to look at the pilings and do a good deed at the same time, sign up for one of the line removal dives.

Shakespeare wrote of land items (people) going through "a sea change, into something rich and strange." That's the power of ocean creatures. It's awe-inspiring to see -- but not courteous of us to require.

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.

Bonaire goes to Italy



Bonaire's Sunfish team bound for Italy: top L-R: Sipke Stapert (Spike), Ton Nuijten (Opa), Robbert Verboon, George Soliana (Kabes), Hans de Waard bottom L-R: Alex Tromp, Ralf Theyse. Photo Julie Morgan

The World Championship with one-person Sunfish sailboats will be held from September 4 to 11, 2022 at Lake Garda, Italy.

Lake Garda is a well known area for windsurfing and sailing contests. Many international regattas are organized by the venue of Circolo Vela Torbole. We are thrilled to compete with 100 hundred sailors in brand new boats in the marvelous surroundings of the southern part of the Alps.

The interesting thing is that we have participants in some challenging subcategories of the 'Worlds.' Alex will be competing in the under 18, Ralf, Sipke and George will sail in the Masters. Hans,

Robbert and Ton are competing in the Grand Master category.

We believe that in each category one of us must be able to end in the Top 5 or better of the World Championship.

Now through September, you will be able to see us training a lot. Some of the time in pairs, sometimes the whole group or with other members of the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA). There will be several demonstrations performed in full view for spectators.

We will keep you informed as to date and location.

by Ton Nuijten



STINAPA Bonaire has produced orientation videos for anyone enjoying water activities and sports in the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP). Each short video explains rules and regulations that need to be followed to safeguard our nature and surrounding ocean.

The videos are short, from one to three minutes and you can watch all of them or just the ones that pertain to you.

Orientations are on: Washington Slagbaai National Park; Klein Bonaire; Lac;

Kayaking; Kite surfing; Windsurfing; Boating; Diving; Swimming and Snorkeling BNMP Nature Fee.

No matter what sport you are involved in, you need to watch the Nature Fee video. Then, for example: divers should watch the videos on Diving, Klein Bonaire, Washington Slagbaai National Park, and Lac. If you are a Windsurfer, you should watch Windsurfing, Lac, and the Swimming and Snorkeling videos. JM

All videos are located on YouTube at STINAPA Bonaire Orientation Videos
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2fSduruNHJ4hcrkwx1zEpRahwluF5kEU>.

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Pets of the Week



Shiny

negative and were neutered. Shiny is about one year old now.

What makes Shiny so special? All the volunteers say that Shiny will always greet you when you enter the Cat Palace and he will always stay close to you. He's a very sweet, big boy who would love to sit with you on your couch and watch T.V. We don't understand why Shiny is still at the shelter. He has been here for about 11 months and that's far too long for such a sweet boy.

Are you looking for a big friend for life? Then Shiny might be the one you are looking for.

Come and meet him in the Cat Palace at Animal Shelter Bonaire and if you decide he's your new big pal, he will be chipped before he goes home with you.

Story Monique Degenaar,

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof

Dear all,

My name is Willow. I'm a sweet lady of around 2 years old. I'm a very happy girl that loves to go out for walks and playtime. And like many other dogs, I adore water and love to play in it, lie in it or just run in it.

I'm good with other dogs, but I prefer to get to know them first, before we can be friends. I like it when children of all ages give me a belly rub, or just spend some time with me and we roam around the yard together.

I'm waiting for you!!

Story and photo: Sanne Attevelt

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.-



Willow

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

Shelter News

Animal Shelter Bonaire Book and Flea Market Extravaganza



cluding children's books. And with all the recent spring cleaning there will be treasures to find among the flea market items. There will be stands with fresh-baked dog treats, baby clothes and baby gift baskets, soft drinks and beer, snacks, and face painting for kids.

It's also a great opportunity to do some "speed dating" with our shelter residents and perhaps find the perfect companion cat or dog.

Come and enjoy the ambience, meet your friends and neighbors, have a cold drink and load up your shopping bag with books and fun "finds" at great prices. Your purchases will help care for the cats and dogs at Animal Shelter Bonaire. It all happens Sunday, June 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26. There will be plenty of parking spaces available next door at Klinika Veterinario and the slaughterhouse.

Jane Disko

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Is it time to get your summer reading list together? And maybe find a comfortable beach chair on which to read all those books? Well then mark your calendar for Sunday, June 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., for the Animal Shelter Bonaire Book and Flea Market Extravaganza.

We will have hundreds of books in many genres, languages and topics, in-



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

UPDATES FROM ECHO

Parrots & People

by Daria Taiakina

Last week, Echo celebrated World Parrot Day

Every year on May 31, World Parrot Day highlights the threat to wild and captive parrots throughout the world. Nearly one in three parrot species are threatened in the wild due to habitat loss, trapping for the pet trade and other human-generated threats. Among these at-risk species is the Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrot (YSAP), or lora as it's known locally on Bonaire. The largest known YSAP population calls Bonaire home, with about 1700 parrots found on the island. This means Echo has the very important role of protecting the local population to ensure the survival of the species.

While we have seen growth in the local lora population, the challenges Echo still faces in our conservation efforts are not small. Many people do not understand the importance of protecting this local parrot species. There is still ongoing poaching of young birds from nests for the illegal parrot trade. Some locals see the lora as a pest because sometimes they will eat the fruits from people's gardens, and they are messy eaters. Land clearing is also a constant threat as it destroys lora nesting and foraging habitat, which can also force the birds to migrate to populated areas.

The love story continues

Our resident couple Peanut and Popje continue to prepare for the breeding season. The routine for Echo volunteers has been to let Peanut out of the enclosure in the mornings when they go in to collect dirty dishes. Peanut would leave to forage in the wild for food and bring it back for Popje. The volunteers let him back into the aviary when coming back in to serve the morning meal. This seemed to work well, until one day Peanut did not come back in the same morning! Popje got depressed and refused to eat any food. The next day Peanut returned to Popje and



we decided it would be best to keep them both in the aviary until after the breeding season, since it is impossible to keep the enclosure open for Peanut to come and go. We hope that by minimizing disturbances to their routine, they will have more success breeding this season.

Speaking of the breeding season, the wild loras are also busy finding mates and making nests in preparation. We are monitoring over 45 nests, of which 15 are active, and five already have eggs. New nests are being discovered every week. Loras nest in existing cavities, such as larger holes in old trees and cliff crevices. If you think you have seen parrots using such a cavity, coming and going and entering the cavity regularly, it may be a nest. Please contact Echo at info@echobonaire.org to let us know. It is important that we monitor nests for research and protect the nests from poaching.

To learn more about Echo, parrots, people, and plants, please check out our website www.echobonaire.org and join our Facebook page for the latest updates.

For World Parrot Day 2022, you can directly support Echo in our conservation efforts by donating: <http://www.echobonaire.org/donate/ways-to-donate-to-echo/>

Support the people of Ukraine through a donation to one of these organizations or other verified charities.

With Ukraine (withukraine.org)

Voices of Children (voices.org.ua/en/)

UNCHR Refugee Agency

(donate.unrefugees.org.uk/)

UNICEF USA (unicefusa.org)

World Vision (worldvision.org)

Mercy Corps (mercycorps.org)

Giro 555 (giro555.nl)



OLB shutting down short-term rentals in residential areas

Short-term rental of houses and apartments is illegal in most neighborhoods on Bonaire, those the OLB has designed as residential. Only owners in areas designated as Recreation/Overnight Recreation and “Mixed” are allowed to rent to tourists for short terms (less than three months). The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) has declared its determination to start enforcing the restriction in the immediate future.

The island has an acute shortage of reasonably priced longer-term rental accommodation for residents. Owners of houses and apartments can now engage companies like Airbnb and Virbo to handle marketing and management, then rent to short-stay visitors at much higher rates than they can collect from long-term local renters.

The government aims to reduce rents generally for island residents while strengthening a sense of community in residential neighborhoods. Also, research has shown that tourists who stay in a hotel or a resort spend more money during their visit because hotels and resorts offer more services.

Recently owners who rent short term to visitors have been notified about the new policy in several neighborhoods. Estate agents and civil-law notaries have also been informed about the current policy and are expected to advise their clients accordingly. *DMR*

Link to Bonaire Spatial Development Plan:
<https://rho.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6cc4a2397de445e9849b6de08614134d>



On the Bonaire Spatial Development Plan, different colors mark the different areas and there is a possibility to zoom in. The specific areas may be clicked on and then the designation of that area is displayed. If an area has the designation ‘Recreation-Overnight Recreation’, ‘Mixed-1’, ‘Mixed-VI’ and ‘Mixed-To be established I’, then short- term rentals are allowed there. They are not permitted in any other area.



COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

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

