



A Green turtle peeks out from his resting place on the east coast of Bonaire
 Photo: Julie Morgan

Protecting the ocean's turtles

Sea turtles, we all love them but like so many animals on our planet their numbers are declining, and protection is necessary to ensure their survival. These gentle creatures are disappearing in large numbers due to coastal development, plastics, by catch, fishing gear entanglement and the turtle meat trade. Of the six species that live in the Caribbean all are endangered or critically endangered.

Since 2000, the world has celebrated World Turtle Day on June 16 to bring attention to the plight of sea turtles. And for the last 17.5 years Bonaire has taken major steps in protecting the animals through the work of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) under the guidance of Mabel Nava.

STCB began in 1991 in the Netherlands, to support Bonaire's turtle population through the efforts of a group of well-meaning volunteers and research students. The STCB Netherlands and Bonaire advocates worked for almost 10 years to secure funding to hire the first STCB staff on Bonaire.

Dr. Robert van Dam was hired as the first project director along with the first field operator Gielmon (Funchi) Egbreghts. Working with Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) they gathered the data to provide information for legislation to protect turtles throughout the Caribbean.

In 2005 Mabel Nava came on board to take STCB to the next level and develop STCB as an integral foundation. As manager her job was to create public awareness, education, communication, raise funds, lobby and advocacy.

Nava said, "This was really a dream job for me. It was Funchi and me and that was it. We had a one room office, a small boat and a pickup and with that we did



Mabel Nava, STCB manager for 17.5 years

the work."

Before signing on with STCB, Nava had studied to be a veterinary for three years. She later achieved a BS in science majoring in psychology and a master in sustainable coastal development. Nava had worked at Jong Bonaire as a youth leader and continued to do so after signing on with STCB.

Nava said, "We just needed people to support our work. We accepted children [from Jong Bonaire] and old people as volunteers. We had a really great community of sailors that would come here every year for the winter months and they were water people. They didn't work so they were always ready."

When Nava began, STCB operated on funding from two years left on a three year grant from Usong, a Netherlands department of internal affairs. This paid their salaries and cost of operations.

A big part of Nava's job was looking for funding. To pay the bills they sold merchandise and received donations for transmitter tracking on the turtles until some serious funding came along. In 2008, WWF (World Wildlife Fund- Neth) became the main sponsor and remain so to this day.

After 10-10-10 STCB began receiving an ongoing funding stream from the government of the Netherlands due to legislation protecting the turtles.

STCB has approximately 50-60 volunteers. During nesting season May to August, their work includes patrolling Klein three times per week, the southern beaches or other potential nesting spots. The average number of

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Covid-19 on Bonaire

Week of June 13 - June 20, 2022

29 active cases (+2 over previous week)	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/>

STINAPA study announces bad news about sargassum



A small boat floats in a bed of sargassum at Lagun.

For over a decade periodic sargassum blooms have repeatedly fouled shorelines in the Caribbean. Authorities on the islands have been hoping to find a good use for the gunk they have to clean up and somehow dispose of. Unfortunately, an experiment conducted by two STINAPA researchers has delivered disappointing news for those who hoped sargassum might be used to supplement animal fodder or to fertilize plants. Sargassum is loaded with heavy metals that can be toxic to humans and animals.

Sargassum samples sent for analysis to the Radboud University laboratory revealed that arsenic levels were higher in vegetables grown in soil with sargassum. Bok choy had 37 times more arsenic than plants grown in plain potting soil. Zucchini had 21 times more, spinach 4 times more, and the soil itself had 13.5 times more. Cadmium levels were also higher in plants grown in sargassum enriched soil, with chemical analysis showing bok choy having 2.5 times more cadmium, zucchini 3 times more, spinach 1.3 times more, while soil showed 2.7 times more cadmium than samples without sargassum enrichment.

The health implications of these findings are still unclear. Arsenic can take several forms, namely organic and inorganic. People have much higher tolerances for organic arsenic. But studies suggest there may be no 'safe' levels of arsenic. Long term ingestion of inorganic arsenic has been connected to skin lesions, cancer, developmental toxicity, neurotoxicity, cardiovascular disease, abnormal glucose metabolism and diabetes. More research is needed to understand impacts of these higher levels of heavy metals and the long-term effects when ingested.

The report recommends that sargassum use be limited to non-consumable options. Perhaps sargassum could be dried and pressed into bricks for building material; or made into bio-fuel; or used as fertilizer for decorative plants or construction material such as bamboo.

Sargassum blooms have social, environmental and economic impact, particularly in the hospitality and fisheries sectors. Sargassum influxes threaten the already fragile coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

Johnson and Engel's research project was funded by WWF-Netherlands and received support from Radboud University. DMR.



Bonaire's Sargassum Response is a great little film on YouTube that explains the threat of sargassum, how STINAPA is handling the situation, and what STINAPA asks of its research partners.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6kH8MgGatE&t=9s>

Administrative Agreement extended to next election

State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen and the Executive Council of Bonaire have announced that the Governance Agreement 2018-2022, due to expire this year, will continue in effect until the next elections scheduled for March 2023, after which a new government on Bonaire and The Hague are expected negotiate a long-term governance agreement.

Under the current governance agreement, Cabinet has approved 30 million Euros of structural funding for the Caribbean Netherlands. Those programs will continue to be funded. Thus 2.2 million will be available for the elimination of backlogs, 1.7 for improving the effectiveness of the Public Entity, 1.4 million for the development of neighborhoods, and 1 million for labor mediation.

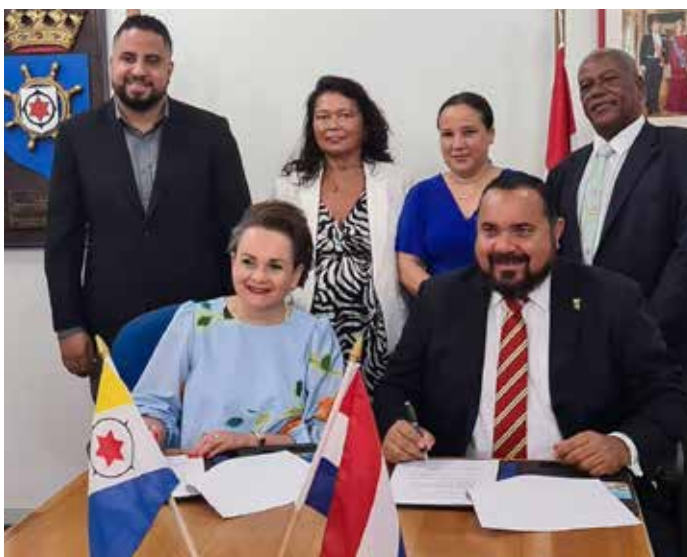
State Secretary Van Huffelen praised the success of the current agreement. "The administrative work agreements were established through intensive cooperation between the Public Entity and various departments, which has led to a nice mix of actions that make a visible difference for the inhabitants of Bonaire."

Island Governor Edison Rijna agreed. "We are very happy with the active attitude and additional resources deployed by the Kingdom." He emphasized, however, that the ultimate goal is not continued dependence on European Netherlands. He said Bonaire wants to continue to build on the sustainable development of the island as Public Entity Bonaire becomes increasingly proficient at governance.

The ambition is to establish a long-term agreement with the new Executive Council and the new Island Council after the elections. Under the current Governance Agreement 2018-2022 good results have been achieved. Key positions within the Public Entity Bonaire have been filled and training programs have been set up. Twinning initiatives with municipalities in the European Netherlands have been started. A job centre is in operation, childcare has been improved, the main roads are actively being renovated, and the supply of social housing is being expanded.

In terms of social development, the minimum wage will be gradually increased until the social minimum benchmark is reached in 2025. Minimum benefits and child allowances have been increased. A local poverty policy has been established that is aimed at, among other things, debt assistance and improving opportunities on the labor market.

Structural steps have been taken to reduce the costs of drinking water and the Internet. DMR



State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen and Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna sign the extension of the Administrative Agreement. Standing L-R: deputy Hennyson Thielman, Portfolio Economic Development and Operations and Support; Wendy Pelk, Island Secretary of the Public Entity Bonaire; deputy Nina den Heyer, Portfolio Society and Care; deputy James Kroon, Portfolio Space and Development and Sports Matters.

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 11

Landgoed Bolivia vs Save Plantation Bolivia



Eric Berkelman Photo Julie Morgan

For over a month now the discussion on the development of the Bolivia has heated up between owner Meine Broomhaar and opposition group Save Plantation Bolivia represented by Wilma Nijland.

Letters, articles, press releases and presentations have been set before the public to view.

Named amongst the 500 richest Dutch people, Broomhaar and his wife Meike are represented by Metafoor Ruimtelijke Ontwikkeling (MRO). MRO specializes in spatial developments and municipal real estate advice. Spokesperson Eric Berkelman has given presentations, that we know of, to Bonaire's Rotary Club, press and

government officials. Metafoor has also issued press releases on Bonaire that publicize a capability to 'realize high-quality, circular and self-sufficient housing in the right places for current and new island residents.'

Berkelman's Landgoed Bolivia presentation was a well-designed promotional piece with maps, and conceptual drawings of planned housing and roads. He used his visuals to stress that there would be minimal impact on the current nature but maximum impact on the recovery of the dry tropical forest and that there would be protection in vulnerable zones. Estate developments would be linked to

existing paths and roads.

Graded maps of Bolivia illustrated house plans for a 'lot construction kit.' Housing ranged from medium term rental, plot areas and different size estate living lots from 1500 m2 to 3000 m2.

Maps for phase one showed agricultural areas with horticulture, fish and livestock farming - 100 ha (247 acres). Eco resorts - 50 ha, (123 acres) a 200 unit apartment - 5 ha (12 acres); gardens - 20 ha (49 acres) - estate landscape - 60 ha (148 acres); a second estate landscape with roads and infrastructure facilities - 160 ha (395 acres) for a total of 2,850 ha (7042 acres). There were no illustrations defining the advertised water plant, wastewater plant or solar and wind turbine farms to support the development.

According to Berkelman the plan is expected to be realized over the next 10 years.

When asked for a timeline regarding the building of homes, infrastructure, water and power, Berkelman would not reveal which would come first.

Landgoed Bolivia says development will be a solution for the shortage of affordable housing for middle segment



Wilma Nijland Photo Julie Morgan

income buyers, yet Berkelman would not give a possible price for any of the projected homes due to the changing economics. An overall project price was not given.

Landgoed Bolivia has maintained that only 10% of the land will be developed. A question whether that 10% included the water plant, wastewater, solar and wind turbines was not answered. A question was asked whether that 10% development was guaranteed, Berkelman said nobody can see into the future and now a much larger area for building has been requested. But, he said for each lot sold, 60% will become open landscape. The Environmental as-

essment has not been completed and although a committee has been appointed the investigation has yet to be completed.

Audience member Burney el Hage said, "Maybe we can compare facts. The population will increase over the next 10 years with more than 10,000 people. We have to build 5,000 more houses."

Save Plantation Bonaire presentation was given by Wilma Nijland former civil law notary and lifetime nature activist. She has followed the activity surrounding Bolivia since news was released of a possible sale.

Bolivia, continued on page 5

FOR SALE Crown Ridge 29 Modern Villa with Ocean View



- Located in Sabadeco, within walking distance to dive site Andrea I
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- Spacious open floorplan

Virtual 3D tour



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http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire



Housing Minister's visit brings major issues into focus



Hugo de Jonge, Minister for Housing and Spatial Planning.

Hugo De Jonge, Minister for Housing and Spatial Planning, accompanied State Secretary Alexandra Huffelen on her recent visit to Bonaire. He showed a clear grasp of two of the island's most important questions: how will the OLB assure that everyone—residents at all economic levels as well as visitors—has an adequate roof over their heads, both in the immediate future and the longer term? And how can the OLB house a larger population without destroying the values that make Bonaire an attractive place to live?

"A lot is being built on the island at the moment, but too little for its own population," said De Jonge. He wants the construction of social rental housing to be accelerated. "Fundashon Cas Bo-

nairiano is doing very good things but does not have enough capital of its own to borrow money cheaply. To solve this problem in the short term, I have granted a \$9 million gift so that more homes can be built soon."

De Jonge believes that to ensure that nature and the inhabitants of the island are not compromised, the Spatial Development Plan Bonaire (ROB) needs to be revised and there must be a clear vision with a view to the future. "How many homes should be built and where should they be located, what is the maximum height and how much ground lease will be issued? Then it must be strictly enforced."

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) predicts the island population will be about 26,000 in 2030 and almost 28,000 in 2050. The CBS estimates that 1,800 homes will have to be built over the next ten years to accommodate this growth, but De Jonge thinks that estimate is too low.

Before approving the major development proposed at Bolivia, De Jonge said, "Let's get the numbers in order first." He thinks that the plan for Bolivia definitely needs extra elaboration. "Nature needs to be restored and that costs a lot of money. This could be financed with money from the sale of houses." He emphasized that no irreversible steps have yet been taken regarding Bolivia and that all options are on the table.

DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad)

POLICE REPORT

Property crime

June 16. Thieves broke into a tourist accommodation on E.E.G. Bulevar and took various electronic devices, keys and a white Changan car, among other things. A little later, the car was found in a mondi near the Kaya Calixta. The car was towed to the police station for further investigation.

Traffic accidents/violations

June 19. Around 8:15 p.m., a car crashed into a lamppost at the intersection of Kaya Korona and Kaya Neerlandia. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

During a patrol, the driver of a scooter was stopped near Kaya Gloria because the scooter had no license plate. The driver showed proof of insurance but did not have a driver's license with him. The scooter was taken into custody until a valid driver's license and number plate could be presented.

June 18. A hit & run was reported. The complainant stated that he was driving from Rincon towards Playa when an on-coming car hit his car at the height of the side mirror as he drove past. The impact was such that the mirror shattered and

the driver suffered facial injuries. The car that caused the collision continued to drive. The driver of the hit car was taken to hospital by ambulance. The case is under investigation.

June 9. At about 7 p.m. the driver of a [motorcycle] was stopped on Kaya Monsignor Nieuwindt because he was not wearing a helmet. He had no documents with him. The motorcycle was confiscated.

Public order

June 9. the police station received a report of a fight at a restaurant on Kaya Korona. When the patrol arrived, a hooded man was found on the ground with a wound to his head. He was taken to hospital by ambulance. The man stated that he was suddenly attacked by three men, one of whom hit him in the head with a beer bottle and another with a baseball bat. The case is under investigation.

Contacting the police

911 (urgent or red-handed)

717 8000 or 715 8000 (no emergency)

9310 (anonymous tip line)

Ask Kate & Jean

Bonaire real estate advice

Help, I have been trying for months to buy a property but they are all sold before I can get enough information about the property. Any suggestions? Ada

Hi Ada,

During this market, an example of a successful buyer is one who has their finances in order, is flexible about touring a property whenever we can get an appointment (either in person or via a WhatsApp tour if they are off island) and is ready to make an immediate offer at or close to full price, even if it includes a financing or inspection contingency.

Some examples of unsuccessful buyers are those who send multiple emails with long lists of detailed questions about several properties, who wait for the answers before asking to see properties, Buyers who are inflexible about seeing proper-



L-R: Jean and Kate

ties when the property is available to see, saying that they are only available on certain days or times before or after their dives, Buyers who say they need to talk to their attorney or accountant after they go home before making an offer, Buyers who make low offers.

*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.



On June 8, Maarten Caljouw, president of Food Bank Bonaire Foundation, had the honor to be present at a lunch given by the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis. There the Food Bank received a check for \$2,500. The money was brought together by the Radiothon held on April 26 that was organized by the Lion, Rotary and Kiwanis service groups.

On behalf of all volunteers and customers of the Food Bank Bonaire: "Thank you very much for this generous gift." *stichting Voedselbank Bonaire*

Civil affairs is determined to provide better service

The new digital appointment system adopted at the Civil Affairs department is not working. The intention was to allow people to come to the Burgerzaken department at an appointed time, then serve them efficiently. Instead, long queues have formed outside the building and people have been frustrated by delays and inefficient service. Some do not show up for their appointment, or arrive without the required documents. Many have also complained about having to book appointments too far in advance.

Civil affairs is determined to improve its service to the public. It is deploying additional staff to help meet the demand. Also, Burgerzaken has now designated a special time when only walk-in clients will be served. People do not need an appointment can come in on Thursdays

between 15.00 and 19.00.

Civil Affairs is asking the public to help too.

People who have an appointment should show up, and at the appointed time.

When people arrive for an appointment, they should bring all the documents or records required for the service they are requesting. The government web site lists everything the staff behind the counter will need to fulfill each product or service requested.

Some people make an appointment, then come in as a walk-in at an earlier date. They should inform the staff of their initial appointment so it can be canceled and the time slot given to another client.

DMR

Sea turtles, continued from page 1



Nava measures a turtle during an in-water survey
Photo STCB

nests is usually between 80-100.

"The beachkeeper is a very important volunteer job coordinated by the field coordinator every day. We have them collecting data and trash and reporting everything they see," said Nava.

Staff members Kaj Schut, Daan Zeegers and 'Fun-

chi' do the majority of field reporting and data collection. When a nest is confirmed, it is marked, noted and protected by barriers if it is in an area with human activity. After the hatching, data is collected regarding the number of hatchlings dead or alive and what stage of development.

Nava said, "We do In-water surveys in Lac Kai. Through netting for capture we can log information about the turtles. Two points are: counting and density of how many are using the bay and the other part is to capture, tag and measure and check their health and growth. This tells us about the health of the environment."

Other work includes a systematic count from January – April on the west coast. This also includes cleaning up discarded fishing line. Any entangled, stranded, sick or dead turtles are recovered by STCB. If necessary, a sea water tank is set up for husbandry until the turtle is well enough for release.

Education is a big part of STCB with presentations for school children six times a year and a by-monthly presentation for all ages at Yellow Submarine.

STCB holds fishing line cleanups on a regular basis for divers and snorkelers on a regular basis.

Two years ago, Nava was scheduled to retire but Covid squashed that plan and instead of retiring she remained at STCB as a consultant and advisor with Kaj Schut taking over the reins. On June 13, Nava officially retired with a send off party.

On leaving STCB Nava said, "My greatest wish is that the work continues and provides a stable location for the turtles. We had a good start with amazing people doing the job. I feel good about it and I'm happy to leave it in the hands that we have now and I hope for the best."

To learn more about STCB visit Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire on Facebook or

<https://www.bonaireturtles.org>.

Photos/story Julie Morgan

Rolling out Refill Bonaire

Bonaire's nature organizations have joined the global "refill and reuse" revolution. The goals: to reduce plastic pollution and help people live lives that create less waste.

The global campaign uses local activists to pressure big brands, businesses and retailers to reduce their use of single-use packaging and to invest in reuse and refill systems. It also pressures governments around the world to hold those businesses to account.

On Bonaire, the nature organizations are promoting a 'Free drinking water' project. Many visitors buy bottled water. These plastic bottles are being transported all over the world. Their only purpose is to be emptied in a few sips somewhere and be discarded. As Bonaire's taps deliver excellent drinking water, buying bottled water here is unnecessary. People can carry refillable bottles and refill them repeatedly. When away from their home base, they can use the Refill app. It will show locate nearby organizations that have agreed to refill bottles with free tap water.

The nature organizations and their partners on Bonaire have created an information folder that is available at resorts, hotels and guesthouses. Several of Bonaire's organizations sell the reusable Blue Bottles for \$20. People can buy them from the Mangrove Center, the Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab, Sea Turtle Club Bonaire, and F.K.K. Animal Rescue.

More information about the global "refill and reuse" campaign at: <https://www.refill.org.uk>

Download the Refill app from the App Store or Google Play.



Please don't feed the donkeys from your car. We know it is difficult to resist as they are so adorable standing there by the side of the road begging for food. But, this only encourages them to return for another handout. This unnatural behavior could result in their becoming a road casualty. If you would like to help the donkeys donate to the Donkey Protection League or the Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary.

Bolivia, continued from page 3

When announced Breemhaar had purchased Plantation Bolivia, she actively began investigating the ramifications development might have on Bonaire's nature.

Nijland's presentation illustrated five points: 1. The ecological and landscape importance of Plantation Bolivia 2. How, where and what Bonaire Properties (Breemhaar) want to develop in the next 20 years 3. What does this mean for the environment 4. Practical things and difficulties 5. What really needs to happen.

Nijland cited Carmabi 1998, "It is clear that there are compelling reasons to preserve as much of Bolivia as possible...: Nesting habitat for the endangered lora; Bolivia is part of one of the six important bird areas under international protocol; Cave systems of Spelunk and Roshikiri are critical shelter for endangered bats and Barn Owls. The terrace edge along the coastline provides shelter and water for birds, insects and plants and the Brassia terrace woodlands is the largest tropical dry forest in the Antilles.

She explained, in the new zoning plan, introduced in late Feb/early March 2022, Bolivia is displayed in white, reading as undesignated where previously it was zoned as open.

Breemhaar's housing plan from January 2020 to September 2021 grew from 1500 houses to 1950 with an additional 200 apartments. It also included a phase

2 plan for another 950 houses. This makes the building area three times the size of Sabadeco.

Fragmentation (when parts of habitat are destroyed leaving small disconnected areas) is the biggest threat for nature corridors.

Water, electricity, wastewater, garbage and infrastructure problems are practical things that must be addressed. Light pollution from the development could disturb the bats.

Nijland concluded, do we really need to build houses on Bolivia to meet the housing need? She says no. There is plenty of space in our residential areas to build houses up till 2050.

The solution to the problem is to make Bolivia zoned as Nature.

The crowd overwhelmingly opposed the building plan. Some suggested asking the Netherlands to purchase the land. If lawyers are needed for representation, then funds could be raised by doing a crowd funding.

Meine and wife Meike Breemhaar purchased Bolivia in December 2019 from Bonaire Properties N.V. They are the primary legal owners although previous owner and former Lt. Gov. Richard Hart maintains a financial interest. The land was offered for \$11.9 million but the actual price has not been revealed.

Current information regarding population estimates from CBS: 2022-22,573; 2030-27,000; 2050-28,000.

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)



Say "thank you" to a Horseshoe crab



pharmaceuticals. LAL is also used to test laboratory and medical equipment and even micro circuits that can be ruined by bacterial secretions. Their blood is bluish in color with copper as the oxygen carrying pigment and it has unique amebocytes that coagulate in the presence of disease causing organisms.

Over a half million horseshoe crabs, largely from the Northeast US, are bled annually to provide the necessary blood that is then centrifuged and freeze dried for the 'LAL' tests. It is a perilous journey for the crabs from harvest and transport back and forth from the bleeding facility to being released again. As many as 20-30 % do not survive and those that do are often damaged and many others see their reproductive success diminished.

The crabs also face many unknowns from pollution, habitat destruction and climate change as well as hundreds of thousands being harvested annually as bait for eel and conch traps. Their populations have been in decline for many years, so much so that the Red Knot, one of the migratory birds that depends on the crab's highly nutritious, tiny, greenish eggs, is now a threatened species. (see the video : 'CRASH: the tale of two species'). An alternative biological test has been created but has not been widely adopted as the LAL test is so dependable, efficient and cost effective.

Limulus has withstood the test of time with its lineage going back before the dinosaurs as evidenced by its 'trilobite' larvae.

While not quite the 'living fossil' some call them, they are more spider than crab, molting from the front of their shell and having book gills and a unique mouth, they have been categorized as Chelicerata under the Arachnid group. Research on the Limulus eye and visual signal processing by Keffer Hartline led to a Nobel Prize in 1967. They molt often their first few years of life and their small, light brown molts with the front edge separated, can frequently be found washed up on



Underbelly of a horseshoe crab. Photo Julie Morgan

the shores of bays, especially on Cape Cod.

With 'World Ocean Day' just past and 'International Horseshoe Crab Day' on June 20 it is a good time to thank New England's REAL Blue Blood, Limulus, the life saving horseshoe crab!

My work with Limulus began as Director of the Marine Ecology Project on Cape Cod's Pleasant Bay in Orleans, Mass...just before I first came to Bonaire in 1976.

George Buckley,
Director

Environmental Management Project

The line-ups were sometimes long, but the food was delicious.
For more photos of The Taste of Bonaire, June 2022, visit our facebook page.



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Bonaire goes to Italy



strategy and tactics.

Torbole is located in the north of Italy at the most northern part of Lake Garda, 65 meters above sea level. Winds are outstanding in intensity and consistency and known to be very regular in autumn. From noon till sunset a thermal wind blows when warm air rises on the south side of the Alps and pulls the cooler air from south to north over the lake. Both the lake and mountain ranges narrow from south to north and a funnel forms causing a Venturi effect, with winds reaching a speed of 10 m/s, or 19 knots in the sailing area of Torbole.

Each year over 90 national and international regattas are held on Lake Garda because of the optimal sailing conditions. Just before the start of the 51st Sunfish World Championship on September 4, the Centomiglia Sailing Regatta takes place September 3-4. This is a 100 mile race and considered the most famous European sailing regatta.

A big thanks to our sponsors and other people involved who make training, preparations and participation in the upcoming 51st Sunfish Worlds possible. It will be an amazing opportunity to sail and compete in a field of 100 sailors from 17 different countries.

I would like to close with an invitation to the youth of Bonaire to try out sailing as a hobby or competitive sport. We have amazing sailing conditions right here on island and the Bonaire Sailing School Association (BSSA, located at kas di Regatta) offers a range of possibilities to get into sailing.

Sipke Stapert Photo Julie Morgan

My name is Sipke Stapert and I am one of the seven Sunfish sailors who will represent Bonaire at the 2022 51st Sunfish World Championship in Torbole at Lake Garda in Italy this upcoming September.

Lake Garda will have one thing in common with the Frisian lakes where I had my first sailing experience with my mom and dad in 1972 and that is fresh water.

Competition sailing on Lake Garda will be a new experience for most of the Sunfish sailors of Bonaire who are more used to saltwater.

With the increased drag of freshwater, reduced flotation, choppy conditions and shore and cliff effects on wind, adjustments will be required in not only sail, boat trim and techniques, but also in

Mittiga Wins Ocean Geographic Pictures of the Year Award



Underwater photographer and Bonaire resident, Lorenzo Mittiga, won first prize in the Music and Pictures category of OGPICOTY 2022 with his video about the Masbango. Mittiga tells the story of the Masbango, a school of fish that arrive every year to the waters of Bonaire to spawn in shallow waters to the north of the island.

Music by Stephen J. Anderson accompanies Mittiga's breath-taking underwater photos.

Mittiga's first prize won him a liveaboard expedition to Antarctica.

You can read more about Mittiga and his art in the online archives of The Bonaire Reporter. See Issue 11 of 2021, June 16 - June 30.

You can watch Mittiga's prize winning video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xd12Rm_fHWA&t=10s



The Bonairean Sailing team were busy washing cars on June 18th at the Bonaire Sunfish Sailing School. The team is participating in the 2022 Sunfish World Championship in Italy this September. The car wash was not only a fund raiser but a team building exercise. It also recognized the great sponsors who supported the team in 2021. The team will proudly don new shirts soon with the same great sponsors and a few additional names.

Bonaire Sailing School (BSSA) joins the Sunfish World Championship ev-

ery year to compete with the best Sunfish sailors in the world. Instructors for the Bonaire team have all competed at 'Worlds' at least once.

And in 2025, the Sunfish World Championships will once again be held on Bonaire. Anyone interested in giving Sunfish sailing a try is welcome. And with a little help from BSSA's talented instructors, they might just find themselves in the competition. For more information visit, www.bonairesailingschool.com.

Story Ton Nuijten, Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire fixes its roads because it owns its roads

A question raised in House of Representatives produced an answer of interest to us all.

Question: How does the infrastructure of the Caribbean Netherlands relate to that of the European Netherlands and does the Caribbean Netherlands have sufficient budget for this?

Short answer: Roads fall primarily under the responsibility of the relevant island governments, just as in the Netherlands the municipal roads fall under the responsibility of the relevant munici-

pality. There are no national roads in the Caribbean Netherlands.

So Bonaire pays for its own roads. On the other hand, considerable money for infrastructure is available to the island from the BES fund and from targeted grants from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and other ministries. The same principles apply to airports and seaports on all three BES islands.

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

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.

Open Letter to the Executive Council and Hugo de Jonge, Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning. To all it Concerns:

Much has been discussed about the activities that circumvent the current Housing and Spatial Planning Code especially regarding: 1. Bolivia Plantation; 2. Sunset Beach planned high rise; 3. The Block Fabrication Plant in an area zoned for agriculture; 4. Chochogo illegal sand dumping and beach access.

There is no question that many will profit from this and the only ones that will not are the people that the plan should be protecting: the current and future residents of Bonaire. The only sensible option for the people of Bonaire is to profit/benefit from any breaches of the rules. I suggest that if someone wants to rezone an area to allow houses where no houses were formerly allowed, if approved then the land would be reassessed retroactively such that a fee would have to be paid prior to any build-

ing to begin to the people of Bonaire in the difference of the taxes that would have been assessed if the land was, for example 2,000 private lots and not one unbuildable parcel. Or, the difference between manufacturing land and farm land. This must be done so that it is fair to the former owners who profited from the sale, to the new owners who will have to pay the fee and to the people of Bonaire so minimally the fee should be retroactive for a ten-year period, at least. This seems in line with the current government practice of introducing fees that will limit family visitors to Bonaireans with a \$75 fee each time they visit. (It is interesting that we have never been told how much it will cost Bonaire to pay to have this fee collected.)

This will give pause to those looking to change the current rules for their own personal gain and, perhaps, those who live here may see some benefit.

Respectfully, Charles Baltayan

A first, underwater sand and rubble areas seem barren of life, deserts with plenty of water but no place to hide. Of course, it just looks as if there are no places to hide. Anemones create tubes that extend below the surface of the sand and spend their daylight hours hidden in the bottoms of their tubes. Snake eels “swim” below the surface of the sand, leaving sine-curve tracks that betray their passing. Heart urchins, sand dollars, umbrella snails, and a surprising number of other animals make their homes in the sand and rubble.

“Make their homes” is an especially accurate term regarding one rubble-dweller, the sand tilefish. I don’t recall seeing many of these on Bonaire up until fairly recently; our shallow sand and rubble areas are relatively small for fish whose colonies, in other areas, can be as large as 900 square yards (.07 ha), according to Ned DeLoach’s Reef Fish Behavior. Lately, though, off Playa, I’ve seen several sand tilefish homes at around 30’ (10m), where the sand and rubble meet the reef.

Juvenile sand tilefish begin their bottom-dwelling



A sand tilefish peaks out of a rubble nest.
Photo Julie Morgan



Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Sand Tilefish

lives in small burrows (I guess we can’t call them “burritos”) they make under rocks or other bottom features. As the fish mature, they begin working on a larger burrow, a tunnel under the sand. Some tilefish begin this home while still living in their baby burrows because building a custom home, even for sand tilefish, takes a while.

The first requirement is the burrow, of course, but a burrow alone is not enough. Spotted eagle rays, nurse sharks, and even dolphins prey on critters who live under the sand, but snake eels can “swim” under the sand away from threats, and urchins and snails have shells to protect them.

Lacking those defenses, sand tilefish came up with a different solution: they cover their burrows with rubble. Not just a sprinkling of rubble, but a pile of rubble maybe 3’ (1m) or more in diameter and maybe 12” (1/3m) high. No ray or shark in its right mind would try to get through that rubble pile, so once the sand tilefish gets into its burrow, it’s safe.

Sand tilefish eat a variety of small critters, and can live at any depth, so there may be colonies of them in our deep waters. In large colonies, sand tilefish males keep harems of females. So far, the individuals I see along Playa probably live too far away from each other to interact, so there’s probably no spawning activity taking place. When it does, it’s reported by DeLoach to

begin at one hour before sunset and end ten minutes after sunset, daily, each male spawning with each of his harem.

Luckily for us, Bonaire’s sand tilefish are calm and occasionally curious around divers. If we approach slowly and without flailing, they will often come quite close to us (as did the one in Julie’s photo). If a diver is too fast, too close, or out of control, a sand tilefish (or any other creature with a sanctuary) will dive into safety.

Razorfish also dive when threatened, but not into a burrow. Each razorfish prepares at least one “dive site,” roughly the diameter and depth of the razorfish’s length, by clearing a sandy area of anything that isn’t sand. Once the site is cleared, the razorfish can dive into it headfirst to escape threats.

Razorfish and sand tilefish are often neighbors. One early underwater scientist observed a rubble pile and then a razorfish moving a piece of rubble. The scientist reported that the rubble pile had been built by the razorfish. Since razorfish don’t even get to half the size of sand tilefish, they would have to be amazingly strong to move rubble the size of a sand tilefish’s rubble, and in a sand tilefish amount – those razorfish must have been thought of as the Arnold Schwarzeneggers of fish!

Nothing around but sand and rubble – and a little underwater identity theft.

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



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A curious sand tilefish investigates Julie and her camera system.
Photo Julie Morgan



FX Sports Company, kite, wing foil and bike rental shop is sponsoring the next funrace for all Bonaire’s local and visiting cycle enthusiasts on Sunday, June 26. The route for both Elite (9 km x 3) and Fun (4 km x 5) categories winds through Barcadera with a start at 8 a.m. The cost is only \$10 and that includes sports drinks and water to keep you hydrated. Helmets are required. For more information visit De Freewieler on Facebook Bonaire Xtreme MTB. (Map shows Elite in red and Fun in yellow)

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Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Bonaire's Brains

A few days ago we attended a social gathering for Dutch politicians. We were sitting together as a small group of elderly.

One of my friends, also part of this group named us, "Brains of Bonaire". And this made me think that she was right.

The group of elderly inhabitants on Bonaire is large and growing fast. In this group one finds all kinds of skilled people who no longer form a part of the working population.

Doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, writers, craftsmen, etc., too many to mention. And all this wisdom and experience is not being used or touched anymore. These elderly do not live in sheltered homes or day-care centers for the elderly. They live at home. Some of them need medical assistance but most have a lot of experi-

ence and time on their hands which they could offer to our community.

But it seems as if once you hit that magic 65 you are not needed anymore. It is even worse..... the younger population sees them as a financial threat! They have worked their whole lives, paid their dues and insurance to be able to enjoy a carefree "old age."

All this knowledge, experience and wisdom should be used. These elderly could function perfectly in advisory boards, foundations for special education or as teachers of skills that are no longer taught. They would be perfect in programs like Big Brothers and Sisters.

But, no, as soon as that number 65 appears it seems as if these elderly are no longer needed and do not "fit the profile" anymore. Heck... we wrote those profiles! We were once pillars of the community.

I find this is very hurtful and insulting. And with me, I know, there are many more with the same opinion.

We have something to say, we can share all we know and learned. We are not a pitiful group of "Depends wearing oldies". We deserve respect.

I felt very honored that a few months ago a few board members of MiVaBo were asked to sit with nursing

school students and to help them with their homework. And we had things they had never heard of before. And we had good, profound conversations and it made us feel good again. The students were very grateful and said they had learned a lot.

Because one should not forget, progress also means knowing where you came from and making use of that.

At this meeting there were also youngsters, performing, serving or catering to us. Some of them came to "our corner" and most of them told us, "I remember you from school, you were a good teacher," or "I will never forget what you taught me." That was sweet comfort to our ears. And the catering was excellent. All food was prepared the way Mom or Granny used to. The presentation was beautiful, modern and very attractive. And that was icing on our "old fashioned cake."

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

Art and wellbeing

There are many definitions for art, and it is hard to choose one. I like to think of art as a creative way to share the way we experience the world. It is the creator's expression of thoughts, ideas and emotions that will evoke an emotional response in the receiver. Art creativity involves skills and imagination to produce the media that will channel emotions.

There are different types of art, including visual arts (painting, sculpture, filming, photography), performing arts (acting, singing, dancing), literary arts (fiction, drama, poetry) and more. A single production can combine multiple types of art.

The process of creating art takes your mind off everyday life providing a relaxing distraction. One can free themselves from rationality and mechanistic logic and plunge into the realms of the impossible and fantastic.

Sculpting, painting or drawing are known to lower stress levels and promote calmness. Studies show that

hormone levels that promote wellbeing, like dopamine, increase in patients who get involved in creative activities. Also, levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, are significantly reduced. By reducing stress levels, the immune system is enhanced resulting in better health and a decrease in medical visits.

The concentration required to focus on the details will set aside worries, therefore art is included in an integrative approach to treat PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome).

There is no need to create a masterpiece, observing and sharing the final product will boost self-esteem and provide a sense of accomplishment.

Art can also help express thoughts and feelings that have been repressed or are difficult to put in words. Through art therapy one can learn to process and understand emotions. Through artistic production one can initiate a journey of self-knowledge and self-discovery identifying the root of personal problems.

For seniors, art can enhance cognitive abilities and memory improving overall life quality. But not only visual arts are therapeutic, as many studies show, singing has a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.

Different types of art are used both in therapeutic realms and in self-development settings.

Psychodrama is a therapeutic method that uses dramatization and role playing to release repressed feelings and emotions and to promote self-knowledge.

Biodanza is a practice that uses music, dance, and positive feeling to promote self-awareness and deepen the bonds with others.

In 1944, Doctor Nise da Silveira, working in a psychiatric hospital in the suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, introduced a new clinical approach encouraging her patients to freely express themselves through art. Silveira later opening a museum dedicated to their artwork.

Not everything about art is always positive. Depending on one's approach to art it can also produce discomfort and sickness. Used in the wrong way it can promote competitiveness and frustration. The film Black Swan is an example of a dysfunctional approach to performing art.

There is surely a type of artwork that you will enjoy, but not every type of art suits everybody and not everybody has to become a creator to fully enjoy art.

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.

FACTSHEET VISITOR ENTRY TAX

EFFECTIVE JULY 1ST, VISITORS TO BONAIRE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A VISITOR ENTRY TAX



VISITOR ENTRY TAX PER VISITOR, VIA AIR OR SEA, PER VISIT	US DOLLAR (\$)
13 YEARS AND OLDER, NON-RESIDENTS OF BONAIRE*	\$ 75
12 YEARS AND YOUNGER, NON-RESIDENTS OF BONAIRE *	\$ 10
ALL RESIDENTS OF THE FORMER NETHERLANDS ANTILLES (STATIA, SABA, CURACAO, ARUBA, ST MARTIN) *	\$ 10
RESIDENTS OF BONAIRE WITH A VALID BONAIRE ID (SEDULA)**	\$ 0
'ISLAND CHILDREN', WHO CAN PROVIDE TANGIBLE PROOF OF STUDYING ABROAD WITH A 'BES STUDIEFINANCIERING'.	\$ 0

NOTES

* THE MANDATORY TAX MAY BE PAID ONLINE VIA THE WEBSITE WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM IT MAY ALSO BE PAID UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT OR UPON ARRIVAL BY BOAT.

** BONAIRE RESIDENTS TRAVELING BACK TO BONAIRE MUST BE ABLE TO SHOW A VALID BONAIRE ID (SEDULA) UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT (FLAMINGO AIRPORT). ALTERNATIVELY, THEY MAY PROVIDE TANGIBLE PROOF OF A SEDULA BEING PROCESSED.

NB. THE VISITOR ENTRY TAX IS REPLACING WHAT WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE ISLAND'S 'ROOM TAX' (\$ 5,50 PER PERSON PER NIGHT) AND THE RENTAL 'CAR TAX' (\$4.00 PER CAR PER DAY).



WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM

Orco Bank launches new website

Orco Bank announced their new Orco Bank website, www.orcobank.com, on June 16th. The bank has transformed the website from an older, static site into a site that brings the customer an improved, dynamic user experience. In addition to a refreshed look and feel, the site offers improved navigation and search options.

The bank promises to continue to work on the development of the site in the coming months to enhance their customers experience.

Orco Bank was founded in 1986 and offers a complete personal and commercial banking package with operations in Curaçao, Bonaire and Sint Maarten.

For more Orco Bank news, and other important information visit: <https://www.orcobank.com/>. Follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrcoBank> or LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/orco-ban>



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Block factory being built in restricted area and without permit

According to the Besreporter, a company is constructing a factory to manufacture cement blocks at a location the spatial development plan designates as an agricultural area. The company has neither been granted a building permit nor even applied for one. The company, Caribbean Klinkers en Bokkenfabriek BV, has posted photos on its own Facebook page of a complete factory being erected.

Clark Abraham, leader of Demokrátko Boneiru (PDB), raised the issue with Island Governor Edison Rijna during the June 13 Public Meeting of the Island Council. When Abraham asked why no enforcement action had been taken, Rijna said a “stop letter” had been issued that told the company to cease construction work.

When Abraham subsequently asked Rijna whether the company would be urged to demolish the illegal factory, Rijna replied that although the factory in question did not yet have a permit, it might receive one in the near future. “Then anyone can start building illegally,” said Abraham, “if you know that there is no sanction and you can still get a permit in the future, because you have already built.”

Rijna responded, “I’m not about permits so I ask you to put your questions to the commissioner who deals with permits and not to me.” *DMR (Besreporter)*

Training for tourism jobs to be offered

In coming months job seekers can sign up, free, for basic training courses in three tourism sector skill sets: housekeeping and security, bartender/service, and tour guiding. During the 4 to 8 weeks courses, participants will receive theoretical and practical lessons and gain experience. They will finish each course with the skills necessary to start working in the sector. They receive a certificate and be directly placed with an employer.

The objective of the training courses is to prepare more local professionals to work in the tourism sector on Bonaire. There is a high demand for personnel within the tourism industry and it looks like this demand will remain the coming years.

The courses are organized by Plenchi di Trabou in co-operation with Moving Forward, Fundashon Forma and various local hospitality companies. Participants must enjoy working in the sector and be motivated to serve the customer. They will not be charged for the training. People already employed in tourism can enroll in the courses to upgrade their skills if their employer agrees. *DMR*

Real-world training will be added to third year of VMBO

In 2024 students in their third year of VMBO will be introduced to a new more practically oriented learning path that merges the current Theoretical Learning Path (TL) and the Mixed Learning Path (GL). From the third year onwards, all students in VMBO will work on assignments for companies and organizations based in Bonaire or the European Netherlands. Students will experience work in the real world. They will discover what they enjoy and are good at while developing skills that guide them in choosing further education in MBO or HAVO.

The SGB will soon start with a practical-oriented test project with coral reefs as the theme, then officially introduce the new learning path in the 2024-2025 school year. Additional information is available at www.sterkberoepsponderwijs.nl. *DMR*

OLB to create “incubators” for small businesses

A building at number 1 Kaya Gilberto (Betico) Croes is now being renovated to serve as a “business incubator,” called BusinessSpark, for local entrepreneurs. The site will provide a gathering place where people who are just starting small company or already have one can meet, inspire each other, and be creatively stimulated.

The aim of BusinessSpark is to promote small businesses and independent entrepreneurs, and to encourage them to innovate and diversify their products and services. Increased local entrepreneurship will contribute to innovation and diversification of the island’s economy.

BusinessSpark can create a coaching, training and networking program that helps a company develop into a successful business. Deputy Thielman explains: “We want to position Bonaire as a society that encourages the entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity of our own citizens.”

The public body Bonaire will advertise to invite entrepreneurs to register. The entrepreneurs will be expected to present a simple business plan about their company’s product or service. Additional BusinessSpark locations may be created in other neighborhoods on Bonaire, depending on the need. Interested business people can email empresa@bonairegov.com or call 715-5372. *DMR*

Suspicious vessel dumps suspicious package on Klein

After being signaled to stop by the Justice-03 Coast Guard patrol vessel, a suspicious craft set course towards Klein Bonaire at high speed. Eventually it was boarded and searched by the Coast Guard. The only contraband found was small amount of hashish belonging to one person who was handed over to the Marechaussee.

The Justice-03 subsequently investigated Klein Bonaire and found in a wet bag containing three packages of possible narcotics. The case is under further investigation. *DMR*

Excise Tax reduction cushions fuel price increase

The government has halved the excise tax on fuel to cushion the effects of recent fuel price increases. The excise rate for gasoline was reduced from USD 31.86 cents per hectolitre to 15.86 cents. The new rate will be in effect from April 1 to December 31, 2022.

Here are the fuel prices for June 10, 2022.

Fuel	Wholesale/Small consumption
Gasoline	\$1.46 / 1.53 per liter
Diesel	\$1.28 / 1.32 per liter
LPG 100	\$57.33 / 63.45 per cylinder
LPG 20	\$11.82 / 13.33 per cylinder

On the second Friday of each month the Executive Council updates the fuel prices on Bonaire in response to monthly changes in the purchase prices. The current sales price for petrol and diesel on Bonaire is in line with the sales prices on Curaçao. *DMR*

You will find a table of the components that make up the price of fuel in the online archives of The Bonaire Reporter. See Issue 8 of 2022, April 13 - 27.

Cash flows both ways between The Hague and BES

In 2019, the year before corona, the BES Islands paid Netherlands approximately 162 million euros in government taxes and premiums. In return, The Hague spent more than 444 million euros in Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. Payments from Bonaire that year covered almost half the island’s governing expenses, while Sint Eustatius covered almost twenty percent of its expenses, and Saba paid only twelve percent.

These are among the figures State Secretary Marnix van Rij of Finance and State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen provided the House of Representatives when it requested an accounting. The 2019 numbers were used because from 2020 on, covid distorted the economies. In 2020, for example, the Netherlands spent about ten million euros on corona support packages in Caribbean Netherlands while receiving about ten million euros less in tax and contributions from the islands.

The calculations do not include expenses The Hague bore for what are considered kingdom tasks, such as defense and foreign affairs. *DMR*

Social relief and child benefit to increase on July 1

On July 1 the RCN-unit SZW will begin paying more money to families with children, and to those who live independently and are entitled to social relief. The supplements paid every two weeks for independent living and for joint households that receive social relief will increase to \$109 on Bonaire, \$132 on Sint Eustatius, and \$130 on Saba. The child benefit will be increased by \$10 to \$ 99 per month on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius.

The government’s goal is to increase the minimum wage gradually until it equals the social minimum. With the present increases, the social relief will be 62.5% of the legal minimum wage for single persons and 85% of the minimum wage for couples that live independently.

With the present increase, the child benefit paid in the Caribbean Netherlands now equals the average amount paid in the European Netherlands. Another \$10 increase will follow on January 1, 2023. *DMR*

Selibon may be getting competition



The OLB has issued Selibon NV a permit to collect, transship, transport, treat and process waste on the island. Now that such a permit exists, other parties can apply to collect specific types of waste, such as bulky household waste, commercial waste and end-of-life vehicles.

Each application for a collection permit will be tested for efficiency. Will the collection take place in a continual manner? Will the waste be collected effectively and efficiently? Does the amount of waste needing to be removed justify the issuance of an additional permit? Will the supervision be effective? Further, the applicant must submit a Certificate of Good Conduct (VOG) that is not older than three months. *DMR*

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 25	Mangazina de Rei walking tour 8-9:15 a.m. (See this page.) Nos Zjilea Festival 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. The traditional serenades of San Juan and San Pedro will be demonstrated and explained. (See this page.) Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drinks.
Saturday, June 26	SportsFX Funrace 8 a.m.start. Barcadera (See page 8.) Book and Flea Market at the Animal Shelter. 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Kaminda Lagoen 26. (See page 15.)
Thurs. & Fri, June 23-24	San Juan celebrations start in the neighborhoods of Rincon, Nort'i Saliña, Antriol, Nikiboko and Tera Kora
Tuesday, June 28-29	San Pedro celebrations start in the neighborhoods of Rincon, Nort'i Saliña, Antriol, Nikiboko and Tera Kora.
Sunday, July 10	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Friday, July 15	Meet the Artist: 7 - 9 p.m. MoltenWolf Glass. Kaya J.N.E. Craane Terramar 8 +599 701-1880 www.MoltenWolfGlass.com
Saturday, July 30	Nos Zjilea Festival 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. Barrio Festival Tera Kora - Tourists can get acquainted with Bonaireans, the island's culture and its products.

Mangazina de Rei announces walking tours beginning on June 25. Guides will include: Juliánka Clarendon on nature, Karmo Janga on architecture, Sylvia Martinus on old fashioned sweets and pastries, Wesley St. Jago and Gonsalvo Goeloe on Bonaire's music traditions and Leticia Beumont on medicinal herbs. The tour begins at 8 a.m. and continues for 1.5 hours. Price for adults is \$25 with a capacity for 20 people. RSVP via WhatsApp before June 24 +599-786-2101

Tentative cruise ship schedule Summer					
DAY & DATE:	DD/MM	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Wednesday	29-06	<i>Horizon</i>	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA
Wednesday	13-07	<i>Mariner of the Seas</i>	0800-2000	3115	RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	27-07	<i>Horizon</i>	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA
Thursday	18-08	<i>Mariner of the Seas</i>	0700-1400	3115	RCCL/CEL
Wednesday	24-08	<i>Horizon</i>	0700-1500	3954	Carnival USA

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.

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.



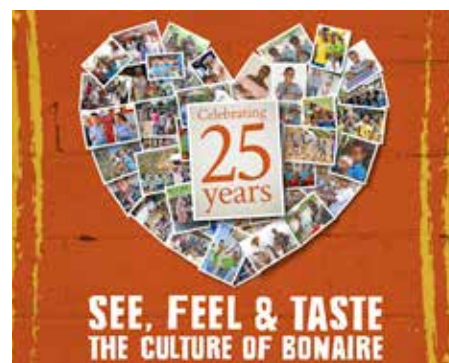
Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free public presentations are held at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m.

Nos Zjilea is back this month

Nos Zjilea returns Saturday, June 25 to Mangazina di Rei in Rincon. This month the cultural event will explain the traditional festivals of San Juan and San Pedro.

On the days that celebrate San Juan and San Pedro, musicians go house-to-house to everyone with the name Juan or Pedro (or names derived from these two, such as Juanita, Johana, Wancho, John, Pedro, Peter and Petra). Even to this day, the traditional serenades occur in the neighborhoods of Rincon, Nort'i Saliña, Antriol, Nikiboko and Tera Kora.

A teacher, Wesley St Jago, will explain the origin of the tradition. Gonsalvo Goeloe will share his memories as a musician with 40 years of serenading. Accompanied by their teachers, two groups of youngsters "Ayo Mundu" and "Zoya Ku Nos" will demonstrate the serenades. At the end you can jump over a torch of fire to ask God to tame the wind.



(Ladies, don't wear a skirt because you may get burned.)

As always, the cultural market will offer a variety of locally produced, fresh products, like local gourd syrup, natural fruit juices "made in Rincon," local delicacies, local art, and much more. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. There will be live performances by the local band, Tutti Frutti, the children's orchestra of Bonaire and Talento Kultural.

For more information, visit the Facebook page of Mangazina di Rei.



The Bonaire cultural celebration of San Juan and San Pedro or Chispa di Wan ku Pedu' was kicked off June 18 at Patun Saragoza park in Antriol. The Culture, Art and Literature Section 'SKAL' brought the opening to life by awarding several Bonaire musicians who have helped keep the tradition of cultural music alive on Bonaire. Attendees enjoyed the music of Grupo Meksiko and the Neil I su Grupo Krioyo. And of course, the traditional fire jumping or 'leaping spark of John and Peter' was performed.

The cultural festivals of San Juan and San Pedro continue June 23 – June 28 in the neighborhoods of Rincon, Nort'i Salina, Antriol, Nikiboko and Tera Kora.



A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Melons

watermelon, Galia melon, cantaloupe, Gwanipa melon, honeydew melon, Yubari King Piel de sapo melon, Oriental melon, Santa Claus melon, Orange Pineapple melon, Apollo melon, Bailan melon, Snowball melon, Armenian cucumbers, winter melon, kiwano melon, Limeloen.

The origin of these popular cantaloupes can be traced back to the town of Cantalupo, Italy. It is said that cantaloupe seeds arrived from Armenia in the 17th century and were planted in Cantalupo located near Rome.

All melons are rich in Vitamin C and Vitamin A. They are rich in minerals too.

Benefits:

-Keeps the body hydrated. Musk melon is high in water content, which keeps the body hydrated in hot seasons.

- Immunity booster • Good for vision.
- Good for cardiovascular health
- For a healthy gut system
- Helps in weight loss • Combats stress
- Prevents Diabetic Nephropathy.
- Promotes hair growth • Healthy skin.

Nutritional facts:

- Carotenoids, potassium, Carbohydrates, phosphorus, dietary fibers, folate, Vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K,

B complexes such as B1(Thiamine), B3 (Niacin), B 5 (panthothenic acid) and B 6 (pyridoxine)



Minerals : Melons are rich in minerals like potassium, iron, calcium, and magnesium. Lycopene is a powerful antioxidant responsible for the bright pink color of watermelons. Studies indicate lycopene can protect heart health. (Lycopene is also present in tomatoes, guavas, and pink grapefruit). A special note for Japan with the most expensive melons in the world. The Yurabi King melon, is grown in the town of Yurabi on the island of Hokkaido. The melons are grown in volcanic ash, harvested by hand and prized for their sweetness. One melon cost up to \$10.000. Nice stories to know.

Melon seeds are considered a healthy

food and are a popular addition to different recipes.

There is an endless variety of different melons to try.

How to hand pollinate melons:

On Bonaire there are fewer bugs, so melons need a hand in pollinating. Take a feather, wave over the male flower and then over the female one. Like all melons the plants are susceptible to a number of fungal diseases. Muskmelons grow the best in warm environments. Well-drained, tilled and fertile soils in an area that gets at least eight hours of sunlight a day. Seeds can be planted directly in the garden soil because when muskmelons are relocated their roots tend to give up and the plant dies. Watch out for the iguanas as they love the melon plant so protection is necessary.

So, now you have another fruit that will do well in your garden right here on Bonaire. Try it out, 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.

Bonaire welcomes back The Taste of Bonaire



Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) held its first Taste of Bonaire in almost two years on June 11. The food stands were full of international and local foods and many of Bonaire's crafts people offered their wares. The mood was festive with close to standing room only after the sun went down and the music began.

The crowd enjoyed the sounds of Payola, Brassband, The Boys and DJ Marv and DJ Kiart.

Recognition was given Bonaire's Miss Tourism Sunniva Manuel who took first runner-up in the Miss Tourism World 2022 in Aruba. TCB's Angelo Domacasse was awarded Best Director Franchise of the World. Taste of Bonaire return August 6.

For more information, contact Angleo Domacasse, angelodomacasse@tourismbonaire.com or call 717-8322.

Photos/story Julie Morgan

More Taste of Bonaire photos on our Facebook page.



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Pets of the Week



Lena

Look at this little lady
isn't she adorable?

Her name is Lena, she's 6 months old and is looking for a lovable family.

Almost five months ago we found a bucket in the parking lot with six small kittens in there. They went straight to a foster till they were able to eat without help.

Lena is neutered, has all her vaccinations and has tested negative for FIV/L.

She loves to cuddle and will follow you wherever you go in the house.

If you would like this little sweetheart in your life, just come and meet her in the Cat Palace. Then we will give her the final check at the vet and have her chipped for you.

Photo/story Monique Degenaar

Hello friends,

My name is Tiger, I'm a very sweet male dog over 5 years old. I thought I found the love of my life five years ago, but time showed me otherwise. I'm very well mannered and a good listener.

I have all the skills to be the perfect furever friend, the only thing missing is a person that will love me and give me a Wonderful home.

I hope to meet you very soon

Story/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.-2:30 p.m. nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Tiger

Animal Shelter Bonaire SUN 26 JUNE 9h-15h

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dogs are looking for
a new home!

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irresistible
and are waiting for
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All sales go directly to the Animal Shelter Bonaire!

UPDATES FROM ECHO

Parrots & People

by the Echo Team

Echo continues to monitor lora nests for conservation

Jack Haines has returned to Bonaire on behalf of World Parrot Trust for a second season of nest monitoring for the Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrot (YSAP), locally known as the lora. Nest monitoring is important for conservation research, as well as for protecting vulnerable nests. Poaching of young parrots for the pet parrot trade is still an ongoing issue on Bonaire and Echo is keeping a close eye on it. Nest monitoring is also one of the ways Echo records the current population dynamics of the YSAP.

It is still early in the breeding season for the loras, currently there are eight confirmed active nests, and 15 more suspected to be active. Of the known active nests, two already have chicks! There are also 65 potential nest sites that are being monitored on a weekly basis.

Nest monitoring education for "Jong Bonaire" youth

You may recall in our previous updates, that Echo staff member Wewe was helping with preparations for the nest monitoring season by holding lessons for high-school youths from "Jong Bonaire" on how to safely ascend and descend cliffs. These skills are required for nest monitoring because loras use cliff and old tree cavities for nesting. Echo continued educating the youth with a second round of lessons from Jack. With these lessons, we aim to establish a group of proficient climbers and abseilers here on Bonaire that will be able to carry out nest monitoring activities independently in the future.

Echo is coming to local cultural markets

The first of the cultural markets will be held on July 25 at Mangazina di Rei from 8 a.m. until the afternoon. Visit the Echo booth to purchase your Donature tag, a tree to plant in your garden, and/or to book a nature tour with Echo.



Our Breeding season Roost count is coming up.

That's why we need your help to count the parrots among our previous visited roosts on July 31. Are you interested to help on the breeding season roost count? You would need to be at your observation point at 6 a.m.

To sign up please email us at echobonaire@gmail.com

This Roost Count is also suitable for first time counters who would love to support conservation efforts through community science. Monitoring the parrots in dry and breeding season will help Echo get a better understanding of where they roost during this season. The collected data will be compared to previous Roost Counts.

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.



Digital Shootout update

Backscatter Digital Shootout held June 4 – 18 has come and gone. Some 60 participants and staff visited Bonaire's reef, some by boat and some by shore during the two week contest. Divi Flamingo Beach resort hosted the event and the photographers took full advantage of the resort's conference rooms and competent hotel and dive staff.

Winners were awarded a range of prizes from camera gear to coveted luxurious dive trips.

Although the organizers told *The Reporter* their divers would be consci-

entious and respectful to the reef and marine life there were complaints about their behaviour on more than one occasion. According to the organizers, proof of the episodes needed to be documented before a "three strikes, you're out" policy would be enforced.

Unfortunately bad behaviour regarding reef respect and marine animals is evident in many divers whether they are handling a camera or not. The organizers were quick to point this out in defense of the shootout participants. *JM*

The STINAPA marine park orientation for diving clearly states to not touch the coral or marine animals. If you need a refresher here is the link for the scuba diving orientation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEtPLb0NF5g&list=PL2fSduruNHJ4hcrkwx1zEpRahwIuF5kEU&index=3>

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.

let's do it
together

START OF INTERIM DIRECTOR AT SEHCF

ST. EUSTATIUS – In the past weeks we have been informing you of our intentions to make structural changes to the organization of St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation. These changes are part of our commitment, as the Supervisory Board of SEHCF to improve our organization and as such contribute to the improvement of the healthcare system of St. Eustatius.

We have held discussions and selected, Mr. Frank Rothweiler who has been appointed as interim board of director for at least one year. Mr. Rothweiler has lived in Curacao for over 30 years. He has extensive experience in the health care field and specifically experience in business development and strategic change.

During his interim period, he will lead the St. Eustatius Healthcare Foundation in line with the new vision and mission and will provide the board, among others, with advice on a definite structure for managing the organization, as well as ensure implementation of actions stemming from the new vision and mission document.

Mr. Rothweiler started at SEHCF last week, on June 6, 2022, and is looking forward to getting acquainted with the organization and with the community of St. Eustatius.

We are also in discussion with a medical consultant who will assist Mr. Rothweiler and our doctors' team with executing a medical analysis of SEHCF within short.

We will continue to keep you abreast of our organization's developments and our efforts to improve healthcare for our community.

Improving health care on St. Eustatius is a process everyone can contribute to. We, therefore, invite residents to share their experiences and suggestions with us. This can be done via our suggestion box in Queen Beatrix Medical Center or via info@sehcf.org. We encourage the community to follow us on Facebook for the latest developments and announcements of SEHCF.

Supervisory Board SEHCF

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