



ReeFiesta volunteers scrub the coral trees at Buddy Dive resort
Photo Julie Morgan

RRFB protecting our coral’s future

Bonaire dived into June, World Ocean Month, by celebrating Reef Awareness Day at Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire’s (RRFB) fifth annual ReeFiesta on June 1. The event attracted like minded individuals who recognize how important our reefs are to the health of our oceans covering 70% of the Earth’s surface.

Due to climate change, our oceans and reefs are in jeopardy. Now more than ever people are taking action, recognizing that the beautiful blue that attracts us is actually our life source.

Twelve years ago, Reef Renewal Bonaire founder and owner of Buddy Dive Resort, Martine van der Valk, did take action. He knew something needed to be done regarding the health of Bonaire’s reefs. At the time coral science was relatively new. The first successful attempts toward coral restoration began in the Florida Keys in 2007 with Ken Nedimyer. He later advised, trained and helped get things started in Bonaire at Reef Renewal.

RRFB began with one dive shop, Buddy Dive, but van der Valk knew that restoration was not the work of a single resort but an island wide initiative.

Today, 13 local dive operators have embraced the work of Reef Renewal and they were all a part of ReeFiesta 2023.

Registration was limited to 100 individuals but with staff, the number peaked at 150. The event began with an educational presentation by Reef Renewal staff. Then participants either went on a guided snorkel tour of the different dive shops’ nursery sites or they went diving to help with maintenance on the nursery coral trees.

At the ReeFiesta closing ceremony, RRFB

chief operating officer Francesca Virdis said, “The reefs we have today are because we had people like Captain Don Stewart who protected our reefs. Today, it is our time, and we have global stressors from climate change. But small actions doing small things mean big things. Only a few years ago we started with two little corals and now we have 100’s of 1000’s of corals. And, we have had an army of volunteers supporting our projects.”

RRFB has trained over 1600 volunteers to clean and maintain the nurseries spread across the island and on Klein Bonaire, and the numbers are growing.

Loretta Marshall, one of the original vol-

unteers, and now on the Reef Renewal team said, “I’ve been doing this for 12 years and I’m still not tired of it. We had one little thick-et patch that is big now and I had a part in it... It’s a wonderful experience and I will keep going as long as I can.”

RRFB team members for the last 12 years, Reef Renewal secretary and Buddy Dive dive manager, Augusto Montbrun, and RRFB board president, David Fishman, presented a plaque of appreciation to the outgoing president van der Valk.

“To start something like this and keep it running, we need you guys. It’s time for me to step down and I’m sure it will be in good

hands,” said van der Valk.

Sponsors of ReeFiesta were WWF-NL (World Wildlife Fund), Ocean Oasis and Orco Bank. Representing the WWF was Monique van der Water who joined in and enjoyed a snorkel of the coral nurseries during the festival.

Orco Bank Bonaire branch manager Abigail Paula said, “The preservation and restoration of our coral reefs are of immense importance to both Bonaire and its population. By supporting events like ReeFiesta we actively contribute to the conservation and rejuvenation of our coral reefs.”

RRFB has outplanted over 50,000 corals of five species: staghorn, elkhorn and three species of boulder coral, lobed star, great star and mountainous star coral. Reef Renewal has 170 nursery trees in total and 19 active restoration sites (outplanting sites around the island). RRFB nursery reared corals have a 95% average survival rate.

In July RRFB will partner with STINAPA on genetic banking and spawning monitoring trials in the fight against SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease).

Bonaire’s dive shops participating in RRFB and at ReeFiesta: AB-Dive, Beyond the Corals, Buddy Dive Resort, Divi Dive Bonaire, Flamingo Diving Bonaire, Technical Diving Services Bonaire, Toucan Diving Bonaire, Tropical Divers Resort Bonaire, VIP Diving, Wannadive Bonaire, Xpro Divers Bonaire and 4-Wheel Diving.

To learn more about coral restoration or to volunteer, visit:
<https://reefrenewalbonaire.org>.



Augusto Montbrun and David Fishman present appreciation plaque to RRFB founder Martine van der Valk.

Photos/Story Julie Morgan

Vote (now) for Bonaire's prospect for the Royal Oranje awards

Voting ends on June 9.

<https://www.appeltjevanoranje.nl/projecten/help-een-handje-mee-aan-de-ontwikkeling-van-jouw-wijk>

Only two days left to cast a vote for Bonaire's Antriol Avanti Foundation, one of the prospects for this year's royal Appeltje van Oranje awards. The theme of the competition this year is Bridge Builders in the Neighborhood.

Members of Antriol Avanti Foundation have been engaged in cleaning the neighborhood together, participating in courses including the history of the Antriol district, spelling Papiamentu, sewing lessons, painting for young people and other social activities for young people and seniors. The foundation organizes an annual neighborhood day and, together with the residents, has provided a neighborhood flag and a neighborhood song. The neighborhood day is a meeting day where a large number of residents visit the activities. These are some examples of activities that are organized by the foundation under the project "Duna un man na desaroyo di bo barrio" (Give a hand to the development of your neighborhood). . DMR



OLB's heated response on leasehold issue

Michael Bijkerk, in an opinion piece that appeared in the May 24 issue of The Bonaire Reporter, attacked the OLB's intention to start selling erfpachts, or long leases, to residential lots at market value. Bijkerk said that will favor the wealthy and block lower income Bonaireans from getting long leases.

A news release from the Island Council objected vigorously to Bijkerk's accusation. It said "the new land policy guarantees that affordable housing will soon be available for the Bonairean society and that every inhabitant can obtain a leasehold land at a fair price." It's not clear whether OLB's "fair price" has a different meaning than Bijkerk's "market value."

The OLB release said the new land policy will create approximately 1,850 affordable homes on the island. Social housing would be guaranteed, and rental and owner-occupied homes as well. Those homes would be located in neighborhoods with "asphalted streets, sidewalks, schools, nurseries, children's play parks, shopping centers and also sufficient space for government services to society."

The OLB says Bijkerk has been promoting "a number of sites cleaned with bulldozers" where container homes with water and electricity would be built. DMR

Dutch want Dutch registration for Bonaire's air ambulance

Giovanni Frans, general director of Fundashon Mariadal Hospital, announced last week that the Ministry of Health wants future medical evacuations by air be carried out by aircraft registered in the Netherlands. He said the Ministry felt the issue was so important that it promised to cover all costs associated with change. Bonaire-based Medicaire, which has provided the island's air evacuations service for 20 years, is registered with the Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority.

Frans said that Bonaire's medivac service has been so good in recent years that other hospitals in the region use it. Medicaire provides the aircraft and crew, Fundashon Mariadal supplies the flight nurses who care for the patients on board.

Medicaire Director René Winkel insists a PH-registered aircraft would not be better or safer than one carrying the PJ registration from the Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority. "In fact, when the Antillean islands separated, a protocol was established between the islands and the Netherlands, recognizing each other's aviation companies and licenses."

Winkel praised his team. "These are highly motivated individuals who for years and years have been on stand-by day and night, in good or bad weather, 365 days per year to fly patients from Bonaire to foreign hospitals for emergency care. In all this time, we have never missed a single flight"

DMR (BESreporter)

Electoral college chooses BES representation in the Senate



Jeroen Recourt

Jeroen Recourt, the number two PvdA candidate in the recent election, has been selected by the electoral college to represent the BES in the Senate, reportedly because of "his strong affinity with the Caribbean and deep knowledge." In the European Netherlands the Provincial Councils choose their representation in the upper house. The electoral college serves that function for the public bodies of the Caribbean Netherlands. The March 2023 election was the first time BES could exercise its vote. DMR

Missing man's belongings found but not him

Arthur 'Turbo' Cecilia has not been seen since he left the North Salina/Nawati area in the early hours of Sunday, May 28. Reportedly he departed the home following a conversation with his mother and stated he would not return. That evening searchers found personal belongings on the coast, behind Arawak, that the family identified as Cecilia's. They included fishing nets, shoes, two necklaces and bracelets.

While family and friends continued to look for Cecilia, the KPCN and Coast Guard kicked off a major search before noon on Monday. They were aided by the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force and the Royal Netherlands Army and Curaçao Militia who are on the island for training. The area around Washington Park, Bolivia and Sabana Piedra Krus was searched, both in the vegetated areas and on the coast. The search resumed on Tuesday, May 30, but no further sign of Cecilia was found.

Earlier, in January of this year, Ludwig Cicilia went missing in the Rincon area. His car was found, as were partial remains. The remains were tested in the Netherlands and their identity confirmed as belonging Cicilia. DMR

Hot weather forces WEB interruption Sunday.

Because of unprecedented high temperatures, on June 5 WEB had to cut service to the neighborhoods Nieuw Amsterdam, Tanki Matrimonio, Amboina, Lagun, and a part of the Mexico district for one hour to prevent a larger power outage. DMR

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 9

The REPORTER

This Issue's Stories

Reef Renewal Reefiesta	1
Nos Zijle May - Music and Dance	3
STINAPA talks SCTLD	4
Ancient DNA research Bonaire at Terramar	5
WEB customer satisfaction survey	6/10
STCB Advice on Removing leeches from shell	7
New at Dive Friends	7
Bistro Sorobon Culinaire	8
Spotlight on artists: Renske Herder	8
Disappearing beaches	9
Open Day at WSNP	10
Classical music concert May 28	12
Waste water initiative	12
Chess tutor Mr Pop honored	14
Yoga Day during wellness week	14
Lionfish Derby	17
Rum tasting Casa del Habano	20

Our Facebook page and

The Reporter's Online Updates bring you news that arrives between issues

Departments

Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Flotsam & Jetsam:	
• Antriol/Royal Oranje vote; Erpachts for sale; BES electoral council; Second missing man; Dutch registration for air ambulance; Hot weather forces power interruption	2
• OLB 2022 books balance; Medical pre-evacuations exercise; Nature permits; Reporter most read; Curaçao/Russian online gambling; de Wolff temporary Island Registrar	9
Ask Bob (Buying trip)	4
Police Report	5
Opinions/Letters: Against each other; Tinted car windows; Nature balance; 66%? housing crisis	6
Tank Talk 2: Diving Fitness	7
Foodies' Dining Guide	11
Accessibility (Empathy)	12
Parrots & People (Parrot Day)	15
Piss and Vinegar (Complaints smells & noise)	15
Garden (Shimaruku)	15
What's Happening (Events; Cruise ships; Clean ups; Pride week; Rum Week; Lora Festival)	16
Optimum Health (Dancing)	17
Business Directory	18
Pet of the Week (Cat-Candy)	19
Shelter (It's hot - protect your pets)	19
Reef Glimpses: (Covid v SCTLD)	19

How to Find Us

Read us online:
<https://bonairereporter.com>
<https://www.Facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>
 Available in 70 locations
 Printed every two weeks
 Next edition: June 21, 2023
 Contributor's Deadline: June 16, 2023
Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:
 Phone (+599) 796 4055
 Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff

Julie Morgan, Publisher
 Production: Barbara Lockwood
 Website: Michael Copini
 Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Jane Madden-Disko, Don M. Ricks, Alan Zale, Caren Eckrich, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Irene de Cunda Costa, Sanne Attevelt, Monique Degenaar, Kaj Schut, Wilma Nijland, Frank Bohm, Izaiñ Mercera, Gijs Borsten, Gary Barrett, Mary E. "Mel" McCombie, Brian Niessen, George Matook

Distribution: , Divi-Divi Airline, Errol Winklaar
 Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
 Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo
 © 2023 The Bonaire Reporter

**Saluting fathers
on Father's Day
Sunday, June 18**

Cultural music and dance featured at May Nos Zjilea



An overjoyed child tries out the Barrel Organ with her mother Photo Julie Morgan

Nos Zjilea, held at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon is in all likelihood the best place to experience and learn about the culture of Bonaire.

The May presentation was all about Bonaire music and how deeply rooted it is to the island's heritage and culture. It's important to keep this music alive by passing on to new generations the songs, dance and local musical instruments.

Frank Carolina and Gonzalvo Goebe were featured with their Barrel Organ, a kind of rhythm box with interchangeable wooden barrels encoded with music. A crank is turned to play the music, some-

what like an organ grinder. Frank and Gonzalvo played the organ and many of the kids and a few adults tried their hand in playing.

Another music feature last month was Ace Kid's Club wrapping up the end of Bonaire Music Week May 21-28. With a theme of 'Let's go global,' the kids performed a variety of dances to different genres of music. The idea of Music Week is to teach children ages 2- 12 more about different rhythms around the globe, but also locally. The kids' group was coordinated by Jasir Greeman and the dance coach was Segney Bernadina.

Local bands Grupo Kulturando and Nikimix performed while many of the guests danced encouraged by performances of everyone's favorite cultural dancers Monique and Donny Winklaar.

On the last Saturday of every month Nos Zjilea is the perfect place to experience cultural presentations, great local crafts, food and homemade fruit juices.

See, Feel and Taste the culture of Bonaire at the next Nos Zjilea on June 24. For more information visit [Mangazina di Rei on Facebook](https://www.mangazinadirei.org) or www.mangazinadirei.org.

Mangazina di Rei cultural museum is open Tuesday – Thursday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 noon. More photos of the May Nos Zjilea on [The Reporter's Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei) page.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Ace Kid's Club performs Photo Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Buildings Lots

Kaya Turkesa 1016



- Location: Santa Barbara, ocean views
- Lot size : 1200 m2 / 12917 sq.ft. Owned land
- No building obligation, zoning Woongebied II

Asking price \$ 289,000 US Dollar



RE/MAX
PARADISE HOMES
BONAIRE

Kaya Berilo 1736



- Location: Santa Barbara
- Lot size: 920 m2 / 9901 sq.ft. Owned land
- No building obligation, zoning Woongebied II

Asking price \$ 195,000 US Dollar

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

STINAPA talks SCTLD with the public

On May 30, STINAPA biologist Roxanne Liana-Francisca led two information sessions on SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease), one in Papiamentu and one in English to a total of 46 local individuals concerned about Bonaire's coral.

What the coral is and does

Francisca began by explaining that coral is what builds the mass of the reef and can be identified as a rock, animal and plant. The coral is made up of individual coral polyps with transparent tentacles that obtain their color from algae.

Bonaire's entire coast from the shore to 60m deep has reefs made up of hard coral, soft coral and sponges. Bonaire has 40% high coral cover while the rest of the Caribbean has less than 20%.

Coral reefs are important as they provide coastline protection from storms, homes for marine life, jobs, tourism, recreations like diving and snorkeling and food. Without the ocean's reefs, 75% of all marine species are endangered. And the reefs are a part of Bonaire's rich heritage.

The reefs help control carbon dioxide which has increased as a result of climate change. The coral absorbs and stores carbon dioxide turning it into food and energy through photosynthesis to grow.

SCTLD

In the past 30 years, Bonaire's reefs have proved resilient against the massive loss of the algae controlling sea urchins, white band coral disease, black band disease, hurricanes and several massive coral bleaching events from overly warm water.

Francisca said, "As of this year, our coral had completely recovered. The first place in the world for this type of coral recovery event."

But SCTLD is a new and major challenge. It is an unknown pathogen thought to be a bacteria and it is unclear how to test for it. One lesion can expand by 3-4 cm. (1.24 – 1.75 in) per day.

SCTLD was discovered in Florida in 2014 at the port of Miami. Currents spread the disease both north and south overtime infecting all Caribbean waters. The disease is spread through direct contact by animals, divers or the bilge water from boats.



SCTLD comes to Bonaire

In Bonaire the disease was first noticed in July 2022 on maze coral but a diagnosis was incomplete. In March 2023, SCTLD was diagnosed at Calabas Reef, 18th Palm and the Town Pier; April 2023, Bachelor Beach to Cliff and May 23, Punt Vierkant and Small Wall. Six coral species have been infected.

Francisca explained, "STINAPA is trying to flatten the curve because it [SCTLD] can't be stopped. Our strategy is to slow it down to give us more time to try other things including some guidelines from other islands."

STINAPA has closed dive sites north of Karpata to all motorized boats as ballast water from boats could be carriers. And there is a partial closure on Klein Bonaire.

"We have been watching the currents and how they move – convergence and divergence from Vierkant to Wekua. We are watching how water circulates. Currents between Klein and Bonaire are mostly on the surface., We are trying to slow this down as much as possible",

said Francisca.

The harbour is the starting point and has the most impacted areas. The disease moves much slower further away from that point.

Francisca said, "Cruise ships might play a role but they have strict ballast water regulations. Other ships are possible too."

One guest questioned why large tankers and tugs were allowed at Bopec even though the north area is currently closed to boats.

Francisca answered saying, "Certain things are not in our control, but we keep communicating with the government."

STINAPA's strategies

STINAPA has treatment trials with antibiotics ongoing but are still determining which are the best coral species to treat. To date they have treated four colonies taking 10 minutes to treat one lesion or four-five in a dive.

Another guest questioned the funding for the expensive cost of antibiotic treatment. Francisca replied that STINAPA is working closely with the local government on the budget for treatment of the disease.

In July, STINAPA will begin working with Reef Renewal on genetic banking and spawning monitoring trials. Colonies with some resistance will be kept in a nursery. Spawning monitoring can help the corals have more successful reproduction.

Several participants expressed their desire to help with coral treatments or in other capacities to stop the spread. Francisca replied that STINAPA would be training people once they knew they were treating the right corals.

"This is going to take some time even if we do our part and everyone else does their part. Some corals have some level of immunity. Other islands have said they have seen some recovery in two years," said Francisca.

What you can do now: decontaminate your gear before and after every dive, enjoy recommended dive areas, plan your dives and enjoy the green dive areas. For up-to-date information follow STINAPA Bonaire on Facebook.

Julie Morgan

Just before press time

Bonaire Human Rights Organization's (BHRO) delegation of Davika Bissessar Shaw and James Finies attended the Economic and Social Council committee meetings in May to be considered as Special Consultative Status in the United Nations of which they were. According to Shaw this will open possibilities for BHRO to relist Bonaire on the Non-Self-Governing-Territories of the UN. They were also granted Special Status of Associate Member by CARICOM Reparations Commission. *JM.*

Webinar for entrepreneurs who wish to do business abroad. Are you a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) active and based on the islands of Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Saba or St. Eustatius? Do you seek new opportunities to expand your business internationally but you do not know where to start? Fortunately, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) can support you through our Support International Business (SIB) subsidy. Please register and join our webinar on June 20th at 10:00 am.

You can register for this event by emailing to sib@rvo.nl or completing our form at [Webinar: Find out how SIB helps you doing business abroad | RVO.nl](#)

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Question: How do I get ready for a home-buying trip to Bonaire? What should I bring? Thanks, Irene.

Hi Irene,

The most important preparation is to contact your Bonaire real estate agent before you come to the island to give the agent notice of your arrival and discuss what you're looking for. Many people fly in weekly to look at properties. By scheduling an appointment in advance, you ensure that your agent has reserved time to work with you and has identified properties that will fit your needs.

The second way to get ready for your home buying trip is to be available any day or time for a property showing. If there are days and times you are unavailable during your trip, it will greatly reduce the opportunity to see the properties you are interested in. Unlike other countries, we don't have lock boxes, so each showing must be carefully coordinated days in advance with owners, renters or property managers. It is critical that everyone is on time for showings as it is difficult to reschedule them. We are happy to drive you to each appointment.

If you make an offer on a property, we will need copies of your passport and driver's license. If you are even considering a mortgage, it is important to briefly meet with the bank in person and provide this documentation, if you are planning to apply for a mortgage at that time. Once these documents are on file with the real estate office and mortgage bank, any additional documentation can be provided by email, even after you return home.

Best of luck in finding your Bonaire home!

Bob Bartikoski,
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner
Mobile: +599-786-7362,
US Toll Free: +1-866-753-2666

If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email me at bob@bonairehomes.com or call or WhatsApp me at +5990786-7362

POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

June 1/2. During the night, the lock of a container was destroyed at a construction site located on Kaminda Djabou and various tools were stolen.

May 23/ June 1. Between the 23rd and the 1st, thieves destroyed the lock of the container on Kaya Ramona and removed various tools.

May 25. The theft of 15 blocks of grass from the LVV site at Kaminda Lagun was reported. The blocks of grass were left to dry to feed the goats and sheep.

Arrests

May 24. In the night a man, 23, was arrested for aggravated assault and attempted murder. He assaulted a man at a bar on Kaya Korona with a baseball bat.

Driving under the influence

May 28. On Kaya Korona a car collided with an oncoming car. The woman, 76, who caused the collision was arrested and her driving license seized after the results of a breathalyzer test.

May 28. A man, 51, was arrested for driving under the influence. His car was spotted by a patrol as it drove in the middle of the road on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. He was

also ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license or insurance.

May 22. A man, 60, was arrested for driving under the influence after he was involved in a collision on Kaya Korona.

Traffic Accidents

June 1. Around midnight, a car and a golf cart collided on Kaya Hermandad. Ambulance crews treated the driver of the golf cart at the scene. The driver was ticketed because the golf cart was uninsured.

June 1. Around 3 a.m., a hit & run took place on the Kaya Hermandad. According to witnesses, a white Mitsubishi pick-up with registration number B-4484 collided with a parked car. The KPCN calls on the owner of this vehicle to report to the police station.

May 30. In the evening hours a car hit an electrical box on Kaya Papa Cornes. The driver stated that he has had problems with the car's brakes for some time. The ambulance transported the driver to hospital. Because the box smelled of smoke, the fire brigade and the electricity company came. Investigation found no fire, but a part had to be replaced.

May 26. In the night in Santa Clara truck #1 swerved for truck #2, lost control, collided with truck #2 and flipped over. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

May 25. Two cars collided on Kaya Nikiboko North. The driver and a passenger of one of the cars were taken to hospital by ambulance. Shortly afterwards, the driver was sent to Curaçao for further medical treatment.

May 25. A car and a crosser bike collided on Kaya Dialma. When the patrol arrived, the crosser was nowhere to be seen. The driver of the crosser was treated at the scene by the ambulance personnel. Shortly after, a fight broke out. Two men aged 49 and 23 who were relatives of the driver of the crosser assaulted another man with a crowbar. Both men were later arrested for public assault and assault with a weapon. The crosser was later found and seized.

May 23. Around 6:15 p.m. a company truck, a motocross racer and a passenger car collided on Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The young motocross driver, aged 15, died in the hospital on May 25 of his injuries.

Public Order

May 30/31. The search for the missing man, Arthur "Turbo" Cecilia continued under the leadership of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force in collaboration with the Coast Guard, who also searched on land and in the air by helicopter.

The search was completed without result. Police are asking anyone who has information to contact police at 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

Find WEB customer service survey on page 10



WEB wants to know whether its water and electricity services are satisfactory to its customers. Readers can express their opinions digitally by following the instructions in WEB's ad on page 10. The survey will end on June 22.

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.

Me Against Them, Them Against Me

The list of why many of us came to live on Bonaire varies in reason why we came. I'm hearing and reading things that concern me. It should concern all who love this island. It seems to be in human makeup, and I don't know what the solution is. I usually try to present a possible solution to the problem in each article I submit. This one I cannot.

Bonaire is my final home. Polls and interviews are leading us to the realization that what has occurred in our native countries is also happening in Bonaire. An attitude of Me against them, them against me is becoming more intense. A shame as each of us has the ability to share the best parts of who we are with all who live on Bonaire.

The past two years I've seen changes happening and progress being accomplished. It is slow but life on Bonaire moves at a slower pace than larger (and I remind others that the island is 5 miles wide and 23-27 miles in length) than other areas on the globe. The island of Bonaire does not appear on most maps published. Try an engine search sometime. If it is shown on the map, notice the size compared to other islands. Some come to have fun and frolic. Others see an opportunity to create new business. Others come to get away from the rat race in their own countries. Others come seeking asylum. We need to rid ourselves of some of our own personal baggage we've brought with us. I speak in the literal sense. Whatever the reason, once here I think most of us would like to assimilate the best Bonaire has to offer.

Our attitude should not revolve around being another invader or conqueror of the culture and peoples who lived here before our arrival. It should not be Them against me, me against them. All inhabitants should be leading by example, make constructive suggestions and share in the work to achieve goals. Likewise, those born and raised on Bonaire could cease thinking of all those (foreigners) attempting to uplift their lives as "THEM". Our ways are different, but we'll assimilate given time and realize we have more in common than differences.

Masha Danki, Earline Wasser

Bonaire's Inclusion in GlobalAncient DNA Research

Harvard University will be studying Bonairean indigenous people's ancient DNA. How will they do this? And why is this research important? Dr. Haviser and Dr. Sirak will answer these questions and more in short presentations and a moderated conversation. Join us for our News Café on June 23rd from 18:00 - 20:00 at Terramar Museum to learn about Bonaire's indigenous heritage and roots.

The ancient DNA laboratory at Harvard Medical School, led by Dr. David Reich, studies the genomes of people who lived in the past. Through the lens of genetics, they provide new insight into human history. Studying ancient DNA gives unprecedented insight into shared human histories. Enabling us to learn about migration patterns, cultural exchanges, and adaptation to new contexts and environments.

In 2020, the Reich lab, together with archaeologists, anthropologists, and museum curators from all over the world, carried out a large-scale study on the ancient Indigenous people of the Caribbean. The researchers sequenced genomes from different islands and different

periods. They interpreted the genetic data alongside rich anthropological and archaeological evidence. Their results provided new insight into the origins of the Caribbean's first people. Through this genetic evidence, they show that Indigenous ancestry of pre-Columbian Caribbean people is present today, in line with the oral history of many people, including Bonaireans.

While their research provided new insight into some long-standing questions about the Caribbean past, it also inspired more questions. The Reich lab is now working with collaborators and stakeholders to carry out a follow-up study that will report new data from additional islands and periods which will provide a new richness to our understanding of Caribbean population history.

For the first time, we will study the ancient people of Bonaire from a paleo-genomic perspective. This will help us to better understand the people who lived here in the past and whose legacy lives on in Bonaire today. Join us to learn more, ask questions, and share your thoughts! *Terramar Museum*

June 17, 2023

Lora Festival - A nature, art and cultural market

Do you wish a display table?

Register before June 9: lorafestival@gmail.com

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.

Privacy Glass: Safety in the Shade

On our roads, we see an increasing number of cars with fully tinted windows, also known as Privacy Glass. Most owners find it cool-looking. Since the introduction of the new traffic law, which aims to prevent this specifically, the use of Privacy Glass has skyrocketed. However, this trend also brings serious safety risks. Especially when the windows are excessively tinted and do not comply with the permitted legislation in Bonaire.

Tinting car windows, although legal within certain limits, seems to have become a delicate balance between privacy and traffic safety. In Bonaire, a minimum light transmission of 55% through car windows is allowed. One would think that is a reasonable margin. However, with a growing trend of excessive tinting, sometimes up to 20%, the healthy balance is at risk of being disrupted. In the dark hours of the night, drivers behind these

screens can hardly perceive anything or, importantly, be seen during interactions. This jeopardizes their own safety.

It is crucial to be aware of the danger associated with vehicles with tinted windows, particularly due to the increasing congestion on often narrow roads. Other road users sharing the road with these vehicles face a serious risk. It becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible, to catch a glimpse of the driver or passengers, which can be crucial for quick and effective action in emergencies. As the driver of a vehicle with excessive tinting, you are directly liable for the consequences in accidents!

The frequently used argument that tinted windows reduce the risk of skin cancer deserves some nuance. It is true that such glass can filter out the harmful rays of the sun and thus reduce the chances of skin damage. However, let us not forget that there are numerous other

preventive measures that can be taken without compromising road safety. It is crucial to maintain a balance between individual rights and the common good, so that we can ensure the safety and well-being of all road users.

The authorities have the responsibility to address this concerning trend and enforce regulations. More attention needs to be given to checking the level of window tinting to ensure it remains within the prescribed limits. This can be done through increased inspections and imposing substantial fines on offenders.

Let us not forget that we all participate in traffic, and that responsibility and mutual respect are the foundations of safe mobility. Ensuring road safety is not only the task of the government but a shared responsibility!

Signed, Henk Keers

In Pursuit of Sustainable Prosperity: Striking a Balance approach between Growth and Quality of life in Bonaire

Almost every week you can read in the local press about more tourists, more inhabitants, more flight movements, more permits, growing, growing, growing...

The prevailing narrative suggest that this continuous growth brings prosperity and well-being to our island. However, this assumption is far from accurate. If we consider the cost of diminishing tranquility, nature, and fresh air, it becomes evident that the construction of houses, resorts, hotels and roads actually hampers our prosperity. Each new development project further exacerbates the scarcity of these resources, which, according to the economic concept of scarcity, has a negative impact on our well-being.

Even the notion of 'green growth' is nothing more than a new revenue model. Advocates of green growth argue that it is possible to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions, suggesting that we can achieve economic growth while emitting fewer pollutants. However, since the signing of the Kyoto treaty in 1997, the adoption of green growth thinking has resulted in global annual greenhouse gas emissions now being 60% higher than in 1997.

It is important to acknowledge that nothing in the world can grow infinitely, including our economy. Classical economists never emphasized singularly on



"growth". For them it is about progress, and that is a much broader concept than just growth. Those who reduce progress to growth ignore the meaning of scarcity in the economy.

True scarcity lies in the intangible treasures that money cannot buy. It is disheartening to realize that despite all the wealth we accumulate, we cannot reclaim what has been lost. An hour of silence, a breathtaking starry sky, a thriving coral reef, a pristine dry tropical forest, untouched mangrove and unspoiled open spaces cannot be purchased. Regrettably, these are the very things our hearts will long for when it is too late.

While it is essential for people to have places to live and thrive, we should reconsider our approach to urban expansion into nature. Instead of continuing to expand in nature, we ought to look better at densification of housing in urban areas or adjacent to urban areas. This way, we can leverage existing infrastructure, making construction projects not only cheaper but also quicker to realize.

Why do we cling to the belief in unlimited growth and material consumption as the sole measure of progress? It is time to embrace a new approach, one where sustainable prosperity takes center stage.

Rather than pursuing growth at all costs, we should strive to outgrow our current mindset. Degrowthers advocate for an economy that ensures everyone has the prospect of a good life within the limits of the planet. It is a search for a different and better society, rather than just a slightly diminished version of the current one. It is about finding ways to live on a damaged planet and actively working to restore it. (Anna Tsing)

Let's strive for a balance between growth, quality of life and the preservation of our precious natural resources.

*Foundation Save Plantation Bolivia
Wilma Nijland*

What if Hugo de Jonge wants a Housing Deal with Bonaire at all costs? (The deal: At least 66% of new homes to be built must be affordable for residents.)

Soon (end of June) Hugo de Jonge, Minister for Housing and Spatial Planning, will revisit Bonaire. His officials have gone to great lengths to make arrangements with various stakeholders to shape "the deal" and make it work. An essential starting point of the deal must be that at least 66% of the homes to be built consist of social housing, mid-rental housing and affordable owner-occupied housing () social rental housing: up to USD 937 p/m, mid-range rental housing from USD 937 to USD 1000 p/m and affordable owner-occupied housing up to USD 225,000).*

After all, that is what it is all about, affordable living for the residents of Bonaire.

Deal preparations

At the beginning of March there was a symposium Affordable Building where a public request was made to the market parties. The question was for concrete proposals to build 'fast and a lot' on government land offered by the OLB at a favorable purchase price. Not one proposal has been received.

Also, meetings have been held, but nothing formal has come out of this.

What now....

1. Hugo wants a signed housing deal because that is also good for his image.



2. Developers, along with certain politicians and real estate brokers, have been navigating the corridors, reaching out to contacts, and forming alliances. Their intention is to significantly reduce the 66% affordable housing since the remaining 33% is insufficient for the lucrative free market, where the true financial gains can be achieved.

The apparent solution...

1. Hugo reduces the 66% affordable housing and thus increases the part for the free market. The autograph and photo moment seem guaranteed.

2. Having patiently lingered in the shadows, the developers, real estate brokers, and certain politicians are now eagerly anticipating this moment, fully aware of the vast financial opportunities that lie ahead.

The BC is now also happy to put their signature and the money earned is divided between the traditional par-

ties: the developers, real estate brokers and some [former] politicians.

The consequences:

1. The residents of Bonaire will have considerably fewer affordable houses and are also disadvantaged compared to the European Netherlands, where the requirement of at least 66% affordable housing is preserved.

2. The developers, real estate agents, and certain politicians quietly reap the benefits and eagerly anticipate future gains, undeterred by zoning plans and permits.

3. Nature again loses out.

Summary of the deal:

The residents of Bonaire, originally meant to benefit from this arrangement, find themselves at a disadvantage both in the present, as they are left without affordable homes, and in the future, as they face the loss of their natural environment. Meanwhile, others revel in their newfound riches, displaying joyful smiles captured in the photograph at the end of June.

The real solution:

It is imperative to uphold the minimum requirement of 66% affordable housing. In cases where financial feasibility becomes a challenge, the European Netherlands should step in and contribute. Only then can we truly refer to a successful deal, benefiting both parties on either side of the Ocean.

Wilma Nijland.

Asking for advice

Every year the Hotline of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) rings several times a month to report sea turtles in trouble. STCB tries to respond as quickly as possible to these reports and will try to find the sea turtle that is in trouble to help it.

Last year, we received a report about a turtle in trouble at the dive site Mi Dushi on Klein Bonaire. While looking for this turtle in trouble, we stumbled upon a female hawksbill turtle, probably a nesting female.

The female seemed to be weak and, after inspection, her plastron (underside) turned out to be full of leeches. This is something we do not see much in the waters around Bonaire, which is why we were not sure how to help this turtle with her leeches. We released her into the water again and when we got back to the office, we contacted a vet who is specialized in sea turtles. She explained that it would be best to remove the leeches with an extensive scrub.

Luckily, we were able to find the sea turtle again the next day. Besides the removal of the leeches, we cleaned her plastron, flippers and carapace with the aid of betadine. After a thorough cleaning with the help of several volunteers and staff, we were able to release her back into the ocean!

On that same day we had a nice surprise! It was the end of the nesting season, we were very surprised to find a new nest on Klein Bonaire. We think that the female turtle we treated had laid a nest that same morning. We hope to see her again during her next nesting season on Bonaire!



This is one of the ways in which STCB protects the sea turtles of Bonaire. Have you seen a turtle in trouble? Please call our Hotline at +599 780 0433.

Kaj Schut

What's New at Dive Friends?

Dive Friends will hold their first IDC (Instructor Development Course) with their own in-house Course Director Eddy beginning June 9. Eddy has been with Dive Friends for many years and is now taking over the IDC's. The next instructor course will be in August and is available for sign up now.

Women's Dive Day is July 15 (see ad). This day for women divers only is packed with yoga, various presentations and, of course, diving and a few extra goodies. Check the Dive Friends Facebook page regularly for new information as released.

Dive Friends continues to offer FREE gear rinse tanks for decontaminating dive gear after diving to help prevent SCTLD. The tanks are available for anyone to use 24 hours a day at these locations: Delfins, Resort Bonaire, Yellow Submarine, Sand Dollar and Hamlet Oasis. Do your part and help protect our beautiful coral reefs.



DIVE #2: Fitness to Dive

Your individual fitness to dive is based upon a number of factors:

FOUNDATIONAL (sound medical, psychological, and physical fitness),

CAPACITY (adequate knowledge and physical skills to dive in normal and exceptional situations) and

READINESS (acute medical, psychological, and physical fitness and nutritional



status).

The most practical strategy for good diving health and safety is to control the "Risks of Living."

THE DIVING MEDIUM: Water and Immersion

The aqueous environment has some wonderful freedoms but also presents some physical costs. Water has a greater density than air. More work is required to move due to greater density of water and to the larger frontal surface area created by the bulky diving gear. Water also has a greater specific heat than air. In

water the heat loss is 20-27 times faster than when in air, so thermal protection is required.

Tips: • Maintain a streamlined posture when diving. • Avoid overweighting which can shift the diver to an upright posture, increasing frontal surface area. • Maintain a steady swim speed. • Use thermal protection.

EXERCISE CAPACITY: The Work of Diving

Aerobic/work capacity, measured as VO₂max is the maximum amount of oxygen that an individual can consume per unit of time. It is usually measured on a treadmill or stationary cycle. This complicated test measures how the whole-body uses oxygen under varying situations. A simpler measure of aerobic/work capacity represents work in terms of Metabolic Equivalents or MET's. The normal Met values for a healthy popula-

	VO ₂ max	MET
Inactive Lifestyle	22-25	greater than 7
Moderately Active	32-35	greater than 10
Optimal Fitness	45-50	greater than 14
Athletic Lifestyle	50-60	greater than 17
Sub-Elite Elite Athlete	64-70	greater than 20

tion range from 5-25 MET's.

You can calculate your VO₂max (and convert to MET) by using the University of Houston Non-exercise Test found at the University of Michigan Lab Website listed below. Some dive instructors use swim tests to estimate the diver's fitness to dive but this measure can be subjective, and can vary based on the instructor's history. Most professionals agree that a minimum of 10-13 MET capacity should the standard for diving fitness.

Tips: • Increase your physical activity especially aerobic activity. • If possible, watch your body weight.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION: How to control it.

Your size, weight and fat content all have an important impact on energy consumption both above and underwater. Your body position while diving can influence your frontal surface area and can have an adverse impact on your energy consumption. Thermal stress or getting cold, can also cost you energy as you try to maintain your body temperature. Passive insulation from a skin, shortie or wetsuit can help lower your energy expenditure and can keep you from shivering to keep warm. Swimming underwater at a slow consistent speed will help to minimize your energy requirements.

Tips: • Try to maintain a horizontal posture with good buoyancy. • Maintain low profile diving gear. • Wear thermal protection with a hood or wetsuit to avoid thermal energy loss. • Slow consistent swim speed can help maintain energy consumption.

University of Michigan Lab Website.
<http://websites.umich.edu/~exphysio/mvs.240/AdditonalLabs/PredVOmax.nonex.data3.5.pdf>

FITNESS FOR LIFE: Diving for life

A 13-14 MET exercise capacity has been determined as the "Optimal for Lifetime Fitness." This MET is not hard to achieve. Aging can cause a 7% decline in fitness per decade once you are over the age of 40. Beginning with a fitness plan early in life can prepare us for a lifetime of enjoyable diving and living.

Tip: • Achieving a high level of fitness at an early age helps to establish healthy habits that will help maintain future fitness and will also provide a reserve capacity robust enough to tolerate age-related declines.

PURSUIT OF LIFETIME FITNESS: Improved Quality of Life

Maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle can affect heart and cardiovascular health, improved cholesterol, insulin sensitivity and ability to handle emotional and physical stress are added benefits.

Tips: • Institute small and achievable goals in your physical activity patterns. • Alter your eating habits to achieve weight loss. • Seek out peer group support with your diving buddies and like-minded individuals to maintain an active lifestyle.



Dr. George Matook first visited Bonaire in 1979, and now lives here full-time. A certified diver since 17, Dr. Matook has been a Dive Medicine Practitioner in Key Largo.

He's a Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon who served as a medical doctor in the United States Air Force for eight years. Dr. Matook and two other Recompression Chamber qualified doctors have been hired to reactivate Bonaire's recompression chamber.

Bistro Sorobon is an amazing surprise



Since the beginning of Culinair in 2020, The Bonaire Reporter has been invited to enjoy and review the featured cuisine of one of the participating restaurants. Every Culinair experience has been amazing with the chefs going all out for this event. For this year's spring edition of Culinair, May 25 – June 8, we were invited to dine at Bistro Sorobon and were completely surprised with not only the cuisine but the entire dining experience.

Set in the beach atmosphere of Sorobon Beach Resort, the restaurant features either inside or open-air dining. Outside, surrounded by native plants and trees, the somewhat rustic raised tented patio is illuminated by strands of lights and tiki torches. As you dine on generously sized tables the sound of the ocean can

be heard in the background creating a truly unique Bonaire atmosphere.

The manager and chef Corinna Wegerer prepared a three-course meal delivered by a wait staff with precision timing and attention to details.

The first course of Bistro's Culinair is an appetizer of Coconut Shrimp with a sweet chili dip on a bed of fresh greens.

My dining partner Leanne Pinkerton who has had coconut shrimp island wide said, "This is the best coconut shrimp I've every had on Bonaire – really!"

The main course was fresh Blackened Snapper served with a fresh mango coulis, coconut rice and stir-fried vegetables. The snapper was perfect with just the right flavor, consistency and spice that was complimented by the coconut rice and veggies.

With sharing in mind, Chef Corinna gave us the option of ordering both the Culinair specialty and the 'Catch of Day', a fresh seared tuna with coconut rice and chili lime butter. Both were beautifully prepared and everything is fresh. The final course was an unbelievably creamy, homemade Mango Ice Cream. We agreed this was better than any we have ever had - anywhere.

Though not included in the normal Culinair meal, wine, beer, island themed cocktails like Mojitos, Daiquiris, Margaritas, Pina Colada and Green Bonaire that features Cadushy Liqueur are available. Bistro has a variety of soft drinks, teas, different coffees including Espresso, Cappuccino and Lattes.

On Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bistro serves a beautiful brunch with

a breakfast buffet for \$21.50. Specialty items like Eggs Benedict, waffles or smoothies are available for an additional price.

Coming on June 16, Bistro Sorobon will feature a unique "Dinner on the Beach". Details will be released at a later date. For more information visit the website at

sorobonbeachclub.com/bistro-sorobon/ and on Facebook, [Bistro Sorobon](https://www.facebook.com/BistroSorobon).

Call +599-785-5872 for reservations for dinner and Sunday Brunch Or email bistro@sorobonbeachresort.com.

Bistro Sorobon is open Friday – Tuesday from 5 - 9 p.m.

Due to scheduling, *The Reporter* was unable to enjoy and report our Bonaire Culinair dining before our last issue.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Spotlight on LOCAL ARTISTS

Renske Herder Studio
Kaya Adela 12
info@renskeherder.nl



Buena vista
Perfect Service and Quality - Our Passion!
Experienced Staff - Eye Exams on Site - Insurance Accepted-Advanced Equipment
Lens Fabrication - Over 1000 different frames and sunglasses
Ray Ban, Oakley, Maui Jim and more
Mon-Fri 9-12 / 2-6
Kaya Grandi 36 **Optics** Tel: +599-7179181

DE FREEWIELER



Sales & Repair:
Road, Mountain & Dutch Bikes.
Giant, Specialized, Bikkell
& Golden Lion Bikes
Parts and accessories for all brands of bikes
Beautiful bike clothes, shoes, helmets
House and car keys duplicated
Kaya Grandi #61 "The blue building"
Open 8:30-12:30, 14:00-17:00
Owner Operated Call 717-8545

Website: www.freewielerbonaire.com
Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DIVE DAY WITH US

July 15th 2023

Check our socials
[@divefriendsbonaire](https://www.instagram.com/divefriendsbonaire)



Hammerheads Hang in the Balance: Why These Sharks Deserve a Helping Hand



trade or even disturbance of these species is forbidden. Annex III includes a list of species of which the exploitation is authorized, but highly regulated.

In 2017, hammerhead sharks were added to the Annex III list of the SPAW Protocol, but this has not resulted in the desired recovery of their populations. Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands along with the Republic of France plan to submit a proposal during the next conference of the parties for the Cartagena Convention (COPS) to upgrade these sharks to the Annex II list. This will allow for these species to receive additional protection moving forward, ensuring these sharks are free to roam the Caribbean waters and contribute to healthy ecosystems for years to come.

DCNA

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) supports science communication and outreach in the Dutch Caribbean region by making nature-related scientific information more widely available through amongst others the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database, DCNA's news platform BioNews and the press. This article contains the results from several scientific studies but the studies themselves are not DCNA studies. No rights can be derived from the content. DCNA is not liable for the content and the in(direct) impacts resulting from publishing this article. *DCNA*

healthy coral reefs and seagrass beds, which is important for the fisheries and the economy (tourism) of the islands. (Hammerhead) sharks are vulnerable to human threats. Overfishing, pollution, and climate change are all factors that can have a negative impact on these animals.

Protection

There are many organizations and individuals working to protect hammerhead sharks and their habitats in the Caribbean. A significant milestone was the establishment of protected areas such as the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanc-

tuary between the BES islands. However, additional efforts are crucial to create more marine protected areas, reduce pollution in the ocean, and promote sustainable fishing practices.

The SPAW Protocol is a regional agreement where member counties have committed to the protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity within the Wider Caribbean Region. Within this agreement, species have been divided into three lists of varying levels of protection, named Annex I, II and III. Annexes I and II include a list of species which require the highest level of protection. For these species the possession,

(Hammerhead) sharks play an important role in maintaining healthy oceans, which is important for the fisheries and the economy of the Caribbean islands. Later this year, the Dutch and French governments will officially propose that three species of hammerhead sharks are added to the SPAW Protocol Annex II list during the next Conference of the parties for the Cartagena Convention (COPS) on Aruba. This increased protection will give the Dutch Caribbean the tools they need to further protect these vital sharks moving forward.

Hammerhead sharks, Genus *Sphyrna*, are found all around the world. Three of nine world's species can be found in the Caribbean, including the scalloped hammerhead, the smooth hammerhead, and the great hammerhead. These species have a similar overall appearance, which makes identifying these sharks at the species level complicated. This has resulted in varying success for management and conservation actions, allowing loopholes for unwanted hammerhead shark mortalities to continue.

Importance

(Hammerhead) sharks are apex predators, which means that they are at the top of its food web and have no natural predators. Sharks help keep their prey population healthy by eating the sick and injured, while also affecting their prey's distribution. In healthy oceans, sharks help to maintain stable fish stocks and

More information: https://www.gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWSTAC10/SPAW_STAC10_WG.43%20INF.20%20EN%20Hammerhead%20Shark%20Species%20Listing%20Proposal.pdf

FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

OLB's 2022 books balance

In 2022 the OLB's income exceeded its expenditures by almost USD 2.2 million. Revenues were higher than budgeted because the new tourist tax kicked in, vehicle taxes were higher than expected, and the OLB collected the overdue guest and car rental taxes.

The Island Council got to approve annual report and annual figures that had received an unqualified auditor's report for both fairness and legality. This was a new achievement for the post 10/10/10 island government. Financial responsibility and reporting is one of the most complex tasks of governing. The OLB financial personnel have worked long and hard to achieve this goal. *DMR*

Medical pre-evacuation exercise conducted for hurricane season

When a serious hurricane threatens, the government intends to pre-evacuate hospital patients from the most vulnerable windward islands to the safer islands further west. That means patients from Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten would be evacuated to hospitals on Bonaire, Curaçao, and Aruba ahead of time to assure their continuity of care. Once a hurricane strikes, the physical security of patients cannot be ensured, and shortages of medical resources and personnel can occur.

On June 2 a pre-patient evacuation exercise was conducted in all the islands. Representatives from all the hospitals and government agencies that would be involved in an evacuation participated. *DMR*

Youth dies in motorcycle accident

A 15-year-old boy with the initials R.J.S. was killed on May 25 when his motorcross was involved in an accident with a company truck and a family car on Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot late in the afternoon.

DMR

Nature permits applied for

Twenty-four applications for nature permits have been submitted to the Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB).
7 Waivers/exemption for activities in the nature park.
2 Permits to fell trees and cacti.
9 To carrying out commercial activities in nature park.
6 Construction of piers and the like.

A list of the nature applications are posted on OLB's facebook page. Anyone can view the requested nature permits for two weeks. The current list can be viewed from May 31st until June 14th, 2023.

DMR

The Bonaire Reporter ranks as island's most read English language newspaper

The Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN) recently surveyed "the media landscape" to determine how its messages are reaching the public. It found that on Bonaire, 94% of the inhabitants can be reached via social media (including also Whatsapp), 77% via the radio, 74% via news websites and 57% via newspapers. More than one in every three respondents (36%) said they read *The Bonaire Reporter*.

DMR.

The Hague ducks Curaçao online gambling issue

During parliamentary debate, opposition members asked what the government intended to do about supervising the online gambling companies operating from Curaçao. The issue arose when Ukraine placed sanctions on a number Curaçao based Russian companies. Foreign Affairs Wopke Hoekstra answered with a firm we'll keep talking with Curaçao and the Ukraine, and with UN and EU if they want to enter the conversation.

But "Curaçao is an autonomous country within the Kingdom and has its own gambling laws and regulations. The licensing, supervision and enforcement of the offer of all games of chance fall within the autonomy of the country of Curaçao."

Originally Curaçao licensed only a few off-shore companies to conduct online gambling operations. But those companies sold sub-licenses to hundreds of other companies.

DMR (The debate in parliament appeared in Dossier Kingdom Relations)

Temporary Island Registrar appointed

Arjen de Wolff has been sworn in to serve as the temporary successor to departing Island Registrar Shuzelle Pieter. De Wolff, who lives in Rincon, has served as director at STINAPA and has been active in various social roles on the island. He studied Law in the Netherlands, was director at Cordaid, was director for the National Democratic Institute for International affairs, was director for the National Democratic Institute for International affairs, and served as Secretary General in the Dutch Parliament.

DMR (BESreporter)

Open day at WSNP returns



Nine year old Raymishon Paulina displays his two driftwood signs at the Junior Ranger's kids corner.. Photo Julie Morgan

For the first time since Covid 19, STINAPA Bonaire organized Open Day on June 4 at Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP). Open Day is always a great opportunity to visit the park. People come to see what this first ever, and largest, national park in the Caribbean is all about because Open Day is Free to everyone.

The gates opened at 9 a.m. with live music and rangers on hand to assist. Many visitors took advantage of the opportunity of free admission to travel into the park to explore, visit Slagbaai or other sites to snorkel or swim.

The Bonaire Marine Park and WSNP rangers gave advice on the best snorkel and swimming spots as diving at this current time is not permitted in the park due to precautions against SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease). The rangers manned gear cleaning stations and took scuba tanks to be returned on the visitor's exit to prevent anyone tempted to dive in the park's beautiful waters.

The historic museum at the entrance ground was open. Head ranger George 'Kultura' Thode was on hand to answer questions to just about everything park visitors wanted to know about the history

of the park.

STINAPA's Junior Rangers set up an amazing 'kid's zone' where children could occupy themselves with activities including driftwood painting, coloring stations, painting a fence, making masks, face painting and even playing chess. A contest with prizes was awarded to kids who completed all the different activities.

An entire area was set up on the grounds for great local food booths, a bar and cool drinks to keep everyone hydrated.

The temperature rose to over 95°F (35°C) which is very unusual for Bonaire. Fortunately, STINAPA had planned for

a hot June day. They set up canopies to provide shade and chairs for the crowd to sit, enjoy the food, chat with old friends and listen to the music from local bands like the Silver Bullet Band.

WSNP gift shop was open for park memorabilia. The event lasted until 6 p.m.

WSNP was established in 1969. It is open Tuesday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry fee to enter the park is normally \$40 or free if you show proof of your Nature Tag. For more information visit STINAPAbonaire.org.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Silver Bullet Band Photo Julie Morgan



As a precaution against spreading SCTLD, gear rinsing stations were available for divers and snorkelers before they entered the park (pictured is WSNP ranger Sixto Trinidad). Photo Julie Morgan



WATER- EN
ENERGIEBEDRIJF
BONAIRE

WEB wants to hear from you!

SCAN HERE



**JOIN US AND HELP WEB
IMPROVE ITS SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY OF BONAIRE.**

Yhannis Arepas
Venezuelan "fresh food"
DINE-IN GARDEN
TAKE-AWAY
Mon-Thursday 2-7pm
Fri 12am-10pm Sat-Sun Closed
+599-788-0035
Kaya Neerlandia 21-behind Budget Marine

ST-KED
BURGERS
SANDWICHES
WRAPS
FRESH TUNA
SALADS
VEGETARIAN
786-6613

LUCIANO
ICE CREAM
Kaya Isla Riba
(centrum Kralendijk)
DAILY 07:30-23:00
New!
Bonaire District
Shopping Center - Hato
MON-SAT 9:00-22:00
KRALENDIJK - BONAIRE

Breeze n' Bites
Seaside Lunch n' Dinner
Thurs-Sun 11:30-3 / 5-9 & Mon 5-9
Thursday Burger Night
Two hour Happy Hour
Next to Den Laman 599-717-3003

TURKISH FASTFOOD
KAYA GOVERNADOR N. DEBROT 66
7874100 HATO
MON/SAT 11AM/10PM
SUN 12PM/8PM
KAYA INDUSTRIA 29
7828106
MON/FRI 11AM/7PM
SAT 11AM/4PM
Takeout and seating outside
tripadvisor rating 5
DONER STATION
BY FRESH MARKET
LIFE IS SHORT.
EAT SOMEWHERE
AWESOME!

RUM RUNNERS
restaurant & cocktailbar
Open 7 Days a Week
Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner
Great Custom Made Cocktails
Spectacular Sea View
Captain Don's Habitat +599-717-8290 x 100

South American Cuisine with a Caribbean Twist
Monday-Friday
6-10 pm
LIVE Music
Tuesday & Friday
599-717-6731
Gob. Debrot 79 - Reservations - www.EddysBonaire.com

Open 7 days a week from 8AM to 2PM
SWEET BAKERY BONAIRE
Kaya Princes Marie 6
+599 782 5885

Beer and Burgers
Tues-Thurs 5-10pm
Kaya Simon Bolivar 21 / 599-777-2907

Number TEN
BONAIRE
EST. 2022

EL PESCADO FISHBAR
LUNCH & DINNER
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
12:00PM - 23:00PM
KAYA ISLA RIBA 1
500 7013547
INFO@ELPESCADOBONAIRE.COM

Diver's Diner
Music Jam Tuesdays 6-10
(come and join the fun)
BBQ & Live Band on Fridays
LUNCH 11:30 - 3 / DINNER 5:30-10
HAPPY HOUR DAILY
Kaya Korsou #1
+599-788-3679

Reserved

Bobbejan's
717-4783
BBQ
WEEKENDS & TAKE AWAY ONLY
Friday Saturday Sunday 6-10 PM

They come to
dive and dine.
Help them find you.

OPENING APRIL 1
(but who will open the bottles?)
Maçaroca
MADEIRA BAR RESTAURANT BY HILLETOP

Get your NAME
out there.

Book an ad.
We will tell your story.

Podium Bonaire sold out at Hofi Kultural

The May 28 Classical Music Board Concert, Podium Bonaire, featured a lineup of almost all local musicians playing to a sold-out crowd at Hofi Kultural.

Opening the event was Adriana Oliveira's Com Alma ensemble of talented saxophone musicians performing a selection of classical, pop and jazz. In addition, the group performed a few pieces written by their talented director Oliveira who is originally from Portugal. Oliveira holds a masters from ESMAE (Schools of Music and Performing Arts) in Portugal and has performed throughout Europe, US and the Caribbean with rock/pop bands, big bands, orchestras and philharmonic. Oliveira teaches for the Saxaphonia Foundation and Com Alma.

Amancio Batta and Friends played an assortment of old and well-known songs including a beautiful rendition of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. Batta, a percussionist originally from Curaçao, has performed with several bands and traveled in Cuba, Ghana and Nigeria to study percussion. After 48 years in Holland he moved to Bonaire and can often be found teaching others how to play various percussion instruments and the kuarta at Hofi Kultural. He was joined by musician friends from Bonaire: Francis Domacassé, Chon Theodora, Magno Janga, Adrey Chin, Kwi Joe and Rudolf Mangelsdorf.

Standing in for scheduled local vocalist Chaira Bolderslee was pianist Claudia Cassier, percussionist Elvin Marchean and singer Carlos Mancilla from Santa

Domingo who wowed the crowd with jazzy and Latin selections. Cassier is a talented classical pianist who is also very much at home with other genres. Her classical keyboard expertise was featured at the Music Board's March 26 concert.

Rignald Kastaneer, guitarist and bass player performed with Adriana Oliveira each soloing on the four song selections of Latin, blues and Caribbean music. Kastaneer, originally from Curaçao, has performed with world known musicians like the late Julian Coco. On occasion Kastaneer will solo or join Bonaire musicians and bands in concert.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Amancio Batta and friends



Adriana Oliveira and Claudia Cassier



Carlos Mancilla

Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Evers-Dokter

About empathy and lesser people

Many readers may know that I am an avid reader. And that I like to share the facts and interesting things I learn with everyone.

Every now and then I find a big shopping bag or carton filled to the brim with books on my porch. I read them and immediately share them with others.

This time there were two books that caught my interest immediately, a novel about what slavery has done to many people and the effects in the long run. I cried a lot while reading this book, because I know that even today there is a lot wrong, and the cause lies in the early days of slavery.

The other novel was about "lesser children"!

In the old days, when a child was born who obviously suffered from something, but it was unknown why and what, doctors told the parents that this child would turn into nothing, and they better take the child to an institution.

It did not matter what was wrong with the child, he or she was known as a lesser person. In those institutions the children and also adults with developmental disabilities spent their days just being kept, tasteless meals were fed, they were mistreated, beaten and sometimes raped. Some of them did not even have a name, they had a number. They lived in hell!

The children were lucky if there was a social worker, a nurse or a cleaning lady who gave them some extra attention. They never felt love.

Then around 1967 a "social" revolution in this field brought many changes. The old buildings were torn down, the staff was fired and only the ones who cared could stay on. The staff was

re-trained and a whole new world began.

We are in 2023 now and all over the world children and adults with developmental disabilities live a life like everybody else. And let us hope and pray that they are happy, healthy and loved.

Empathy is very important in everyone's life. Empathy makes the world go round.

The same counts for accessibility. Accessibility has always been an issue all over the world. In Holland in 2016 the W.M.O. "Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning" was introduced and things started changing. People received scooter-mobiles, wheelchairs, adapted wheelchairs, transportation to and from doctor's offices, hospitals, etc. Wheelchair ramps were built, houses were adapted to special needs and special housing was built. The list goes on and on.

So, when on Bonaire the Z.V.K. became a fact, everybody was happy. Things looked like we would go the same route Holland had gone. And here things went sour. It appeared that on Bonaire we did not have the same rights, and that hurts.

Bonaire needs to sign the United Nations Act for rights of persons with disabilities. And this has not happened yet.

Now here the empathy kicks in. We all know it is important. We all know it is a must and we know we have the same rights. Please, hurry



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at 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.

Local organizations invited to benefit from wastewater initiative

A pilot project for decentralizing wastewater treatment will soon start on Bonaire. Installations will be constructed that collect wastewater at several locations and purify it for reuse in various ways. Companies and organizations are invited to register their locations as potential demo projects. They can help find ways to reuse precious water and work on positive business cases for themselves.

The initiative is being organized by Water Circles, a collaboration between WWF-NL, Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA), Water en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. (WEB), the Public Entity Bonaire, and Water Alliance.

Those interested are invited to an information session about the project at Captain Don's Habitat on June 8, from 18:30 to 21:00. Information will be provided about the project and its benefits for participating organizations. The application and selection procedure will also be explained. Interested parties must confirm their attendance at watercircles@gmail.com. DMR

At Echo, Every Day is Parrot Day

by “Mel” McCombie

May 31st is international World Parrot Day, but at Echo, every day is Parrot Day. I went to a special tour marking the occasion at the Echo property in Dos Pos, just north of Rincon. In 2004, the World Parrot Trust (WPT) instituted this special day to heighten awareness about the threats to parrots worldwide. We joined a tour conducted by Megan Hill, who works for the WPT, and Jack Haines, an expert in parrot conservation working at Echo under the aegis of WPT.

Echo’s ambassador parrots enchanted the group. One pair, Lola and Kiki, are former pet Loras who bonded to humans early, and thus cannot be released into the wild; they lack the skills they’d need to survive. Intelligent and social creatures, they clambered over to greet the human group with whistles and calls of “hello!” and “hola!” Because they grew up with people, we got to see them up close. Everyone admired their iridescent green and yellow feathers, with elegant touches of red and blue, offsetting glossy beaks and bright eyes with orange irises. One visitor brought raw almond treats, and Kiki and Lola delicately took the proffered treats with their prehensile tongues. A parrot tongue is amazing, with a small bone in it, and muscles both in and around the tongue that allow it to function like a super-dexterous finger. They can hold and manipulate things with their tongues, in addition to tasting; special muscles in the tongue allow it to change shape. And Lora tongues, like all Amazon parrots, are black.

As we walked, Megan explained the ways that Echo works to assist our beautiful endemic Loras. Echo rescues, rehabs, and releases Loras and prikichi, and they restore the dry forest habitat on the island. The bravest Echo staff monitor



Intern Steve Stavrakis wore his Lora suit proudly! Photo Julie Morgan

Lora nests during breeding season, sometimes hanging in mid-air off cliffs! And Echo offers outreach to locals and visitors—like our tour. It has also sponsored 11 exclusion zones that keep donkeys, goats, and swine out, gated communities that allow the flora to flourish and nourish the Loras. I’ll write about nest monitoring, roost counts, and native flora in future columns.

Nearby, Weebo and Dushi, the second ambassador pair, greeted the group from their magnificent aviary. These two are younger and saucier than their neighbors. Another parrot ambassador is Baby, a green-winged macaw. She was brought to the island by the late Jack Chalk as a companion to his older macaw, Stanley. When Jack died, the macaws found a new home at Echo. After Stanley died a few years ago, Baby needed even more human interaction and enrichment. Sky, an Echo volunteer reads to Baby every day! Macaws are not native to Bonaire but are central and south American parrots.

Ironically, their charm and personalities contributes to the threat

of parrot extinction. Poaching parrots to be sold as pets for humans is a real problem. In addition, deforestation ruins many parrot habitats (over 70% of parrots rely on forests). Part of Echo’s mission on Bonaire focuses on re-

storing the native plants and trees so essential to providing food and shelter for Loras. And

Parrot day, continued on page 14



Kiki relishes an almond treat. Photo Julie Morgan

A step
Closer to
your dream home

At **Orco Bank** we are committed to helping you attain your dream home. We offer a variety of financial options that fit your needs.

Contact our Mortgage Specialists today, to make your dream home a reality.

For an appointment call:
(+599) 717 2000

Email us at:
mortgage@orcobank.com

ORCO BANK
Your Personal Banker

www.orcobank.com

Mr. Pop thanked for 35 years caring and coaching



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

International Yoga Day Summer Solstice

Walk a short, mindful meditative loop with us,
followed by sunset yoga
overlooking Klein Bonaire

21 JUNE
SERU LARGU
5:30pm
for a 5:45pm start

WHAT TO BRING:
Mat or towel
Water
Insect repellent
Walking shoes
Sundowner for afterwards!



RSVP PREFERRED:



Kelly: 599 7010110 @Fitfor Lifeathletics | Miranda: +1 425 7859808 @samudrayogaflow

In what was supposed to be a small award ceremony for three young talented inter-island chess champions at Divi Flamingo on May 26, Serapio Pop was in for a surprise. The kids received their recognition but so did 'Mr. Pop,' chess trainer and coach to Bonaire's kids for the last 35 years. Pop has taught more than 700 children ages 6-18. Children begin to play chess in primary school and many keep playing throughout their school years, as Mr. Pop's passion for the game is highly contagious.

Pop explained that chess improves memory skills, problem solving, challenges you and is good for every age. It keeps your brain sharp.

As in previous years, Pop's students received top honors in the most recent ABC island tournament March 10-12: Christiaan Smeets, 15, won best boys, open group (any age or sex) and beat the reigning Curaçao champ; Daphne Smeets, 12, took first place in the girls and Adriaan Fernandez, 10, won first in his age group. The winners received books on chess tactics from their teacher.

Mr. Pop received a plaque from BJSC (Bonaire Youth Chess Club) and Indebon with a group of students and parents in attendance. The plaque read:

**Bonaire Youth Chess Club
May 18, 1988 - May 18, 2023
Mr Serapio Pop,**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your excellent work as a Chess Trainer and Coach. Your dedication and exceptional achievements have not gone unnoticed. Your positive attitude has had a great impact on our children. You are: founder, volunteer, hardworking, good humored, with a healthy work ethic, initiator, a go-getter and dedicated to the chess club.

All chess players, the board of the B.J.S.C. and Indebon congratulate you, Mr. S. Pop, on your 35th anniversary.

Thank you for your exceptional commitment.

All chess players, parents and the board of the B.J.S.C.

Story/photo Julie Morgan

Parrot Day, continued from page 14

restoring our dry forest ecosystem helps humans as well. Remember the flooding last fall during the heavy rains? Had there been more plants around downtown, it's possible that the flooding would have been mitigated.

Come meet Echo's ambassadors and enjoy the setting, surrounded by the calls of wild Loras and prikichi. They offer tours on Fridays at 5 p.m. (a perfect time to witness the evening convocation) and Saturdays at 8 a.m. Book at tours@

echobonaire.org. And pencil in the Lora Festival on June 17th, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. Mention that Kiki and Lola sent you



Mel McCombie is a retired professor, and conservation activist, and has lived part-time in Bonaire for 30 years.

Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Smells and Noises

A new phenomenon is on the rise on Bonaire. It's an imported thing. It's complainers. People moaning. Lamenting. In Bonaire's case, it is mainly people buying lots that are involved, houses, whatever they can find, without examining the neighborhood, or so much ever having been to the island. Straight from the internet? Possible.

And then, arriving in their island paradise, they suddenly discover their new residence is located in a noisy/smelly/crowded/otherwise disappointing location. They didn't hear the noises or smell the smells before, neither in their imagination of how paradisiacal Bonaire should be, nor in the pictures of the builder's brochures. It shouldn't be there.

And after the awareness descended in their heads that their island paradise isn't a paradise but just a regular island, they start complaining. Rightly so, but too late.

It's a kind NIMBY, people actively trying to prevent matters from being developed and/or founded (like refugee camps, highway junctions, discotheques, incineration plants, elementary schools, or other noisy, smelly or crowded institutions), of which they think they will have to complain about, under the pretext, among others, the upcoming nuisance decreases the value of their house (Dutch) or their property (American). For socio-novices: NIMBY is short for Not In My Back Yard.

The situation on Bonaire is, however, slightly differ-

ent, and can best be characterized as a retrograde kind of NIMBY, or, more specifically, by 'NTILITBY, THTS-DWTHBDDTLCD, OIOA': 'Now That I Live In Their Back Yard, They Have To Stop Doing What They Have Been Doing During The Last Couple Of Decades, Because It Smells, Makes Noise, Or Is Otherwise Annoying'. They try, after having identified what caused the deviation of their thought paradise world, to prevent the continuation of things that are already there, because they don't like them.

Two of the principle driving forces for their protests are, as said, noises, and smells. Although they could have known that there was SOMETHING wrong – ideal worlds, like Bonaire in the developer's brochures or in their own dreams, typically only exist in some parallel universe, and not in this one – they only discover the shortcomings of the place the moment they move in their new home/neighborhood, or whatever else habitable they obtained.

Those shortcomings have probably always been there. Or at least regularly. They just didn't notice. The trade wind almost always blows from the East to North-East, and the Landfill, the Animal Shelter, the Donkey Sanctuary, and the dozens of noisy sneks all over the island didn't move for decades. They've been there forever. Everyday life on Bonaire is noisy. And smelly. Get used to it.

Living on Bonaire means being haunted by motorcycles and cars revving, planes taking off or landing, loud music from sneks, cars or neighbors, public or private drunkenness, dogs barking, smells from a wild variety of origins (mostly nauseating or chemical), and whatever else you can think of.

With every corner of the island being developed,

only focused on quick sales and profits, we're probably looking at hundreds of newcomers, buying a place in an affected area without knowing it. They will probably become the avid NTILITBY, TH(etc)'s of the near future.

A quick scan of future developments in the danger zone, point – among others - towards the urban development of Bolivia, coinciding with the building and use of the drag strip near Onima. Drag racing (not mentioning the traffic it generates) using motorcycles and cars is a noisy habit.

Another point of interest is the new development of Suikerpalm, a gem of town planning, only yards downwind from the Donkey Sanctuary, celebrating its 35th birthday this year, generating smell of donkey-doo that stands like a rock. Question: Will the Donkey Sanctuary, after decades of housing donkeys in need, be forced to close down or move because of complaining homeowners from Suikerpalm? You can mail your answer to: donkeys*hit@bettergetusedto.it. Great prizes.

And for those who plan to settle themselves in the neighborhood of the Animal Shelter – I still haven't any major developments there – especially on the leeward side: Yes. Dogs bark.



Gijs, originally from Leiden (NL), has been living on and off on Bonaire for about twenty years. He has no clear focus, and loves to be surprised by actors in politics and administration. Originally into The Fine Arts, then a career in (forensic) accounting, then a PhD in German Philology, now operating rake & shovel at Mangasina The Storehouse.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Shimaruku time

I couldn't believe it when I saw my cherry trees blooming again after a break of just two months. I pick handfuls of cherries every morning but it's not enough. Today I have new cherry flowers, so within a few weeks there will be a new harvest of cherries. This is cool; this is great.

And because it's three trees together, I have enough cherries to make a lot of things: juices, add to yogurt, cherry stew with sugar, lemon and cinnamon, or I eat them fresh.

Yes, it's cherry time. Along the road to Rincon, in the valley of Tras Montana, there are a lot of cherry shrubs in the wild full of ripe fruit in red, orange and yellow. Consuming four or five of them is enough for the recommended amount of Vitamin C for our daily health even though the fruit is only 1-1.5 centimeter wide.

Red shimaruku tend to taste better than orange ones and the more rain they receive the sweeter they are. Before picking the fruit, be prepared for itchiness and scratches all over for days because of the wild pollen and thorns.

Iguanas, birds, lizards and bats are crazy for this delightful fruit. Many birds hang around my garden early in the morning. Green or red cherries, the birds like them all and call their bird friends to come for breakfast on my shimaruku trees. At 5:30 a.m., I'm picking fruit for my breakfast, while the birds sit in other trees and watch. You can go and pick these incredible healthy shimaruku cherries yourself, just take a walk on the wild side and let nature surprise you.

Acerola, also known as the Barbados cherry or West Indian cherry belongs to the Malpighiaceae family and is also known as Malpighia emarginata. The fruit is said to be one of the richest natural sources of ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) in the world.

This plant is an evergreen shrub which flourishes in tropical climates. It flowers after rain showers and from April to November. The fruit matures in three to four weeks after flowering. The skin of the fruit is green until mature then becomes yellow, orange or red. Sweetness of fruit varies from sweet to quite tart and acidic. Beside the high ascorbic acid the fruit also contains a lot of phyto



Shimaruku. Top left healthy. Others with a sickness

nutrition like carotenoids, phenolics, flavonoids, and anthocyanins. These added healthy values make it a 'super fruit.'

The cherry put its first step in the world by two men of Puerto Rico named Asenjo and Guzman. They pointed out the unusually high content of ascorbic acid in acerola in 1946.

Another interesting thing is that exotic Acerola has an exceptional agro industrial potential and represents an alluring economic prospect. Brazil exploits the most acerola commercially and its the largest producer of this fruit. They also export the most processed products from acerola such as frozen fruit, juice, marmalade, frozen concentrated jam and liqueur.

In the U.S. it's used as a supplement by pharmaceutical industries because it has a rich source of ascorbic acid.

Coming back to my garden, I've noticed some sickness on my trees and I don't know if it is one sickness or more. The shimaruku trees' leaves have strange white spots, the fruits get an ugly skin and there are a lot of lice and white fly fungi on the flowers and young fruits. I think there are at least two types of sickness that attack my trees and other trees on Bonaire. I have noticed little white worms coming out of the fruits when I soak them in water with some salt for 14 minutes. It must be eggs from flies in the fruits and really makes the fruits look ugly. Take a look at the pictures. I'm sure tea from the neem tree sprayed in the shimaruku tree would help a lot. But when it's a big shrub, the best thing to do is trim the tree way back so it is small to prevent it from dying.

There is a lot of sickness around these days on all my plants because of the drought and the white fly is the worst. If you have these problems, cut back your trees and shrubs to save them.

How to get cherry shrubs? Shimaruku will grow from seeds and cuttings, although it's not easy to get plants from the cherry seeds. Germination can take at least six to 12 months. Once the young plants pop up, the growing goes easily. Locate the tree in partial shade and moist, well-drained soil. When young, the plant needs regular water but matured plants are quite drought - tolerant.

Since I started growing cherries, overtime I now see young plants pop up in my yard. The seeds are spread by birds and rainwater. I have four mature plants and the other plants I gave away to friends who were very happy to have them.

For cuttings you can find enough information online. But I grew mine from seeds and have everywhere fruit.

So garden friends, work to do, start now.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she 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.

What's Happening

Animal Shelter: 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

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

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tues. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. - noon
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. Adults \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): CLOSED.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700

<https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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

Washington Slagbaai Park: Closed on Mondays Apr. 3 - Nov. 27. Otherwise open daily. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.) \$40 (Free with proof of Nature tag)

Tuesday, June 13
MoltenWolf Glass Summer Workshop: Wall Art Fishes with Joël. 6-9 p.m. Class limit 8 people. Make three to four different glass fishes. \$150 includes tools, materials, snacks, beverages, and your finished pieces. No experience is required.
First workshop is full but another can open up with one more participant. Contact MoltenWolf Glass to reserve.

Monday to Saturday June 12 - June 17
Second Annual Bonaire Rum Week, Tastings, beach parties, bartending seminars & competitions, pairing dinners & cigars.
13 Grand Opening Party at Rum Runners 5 - 8 p.m.
14 Rum tasting at La Casa del Habano Bonaire. 8 p.m. Rum and cigars at Bonaire's premier cigar lounge in Kralendijk. Live music. See page 20.
17 Rum Week joins Taste of Bonaire, see row below.
RSVP required for following events: rum@caribjournal.com
12 Opening VIP Rum Event Bamboo Bonaire 6 - 8 p.m.
13 Multi-course rum pairing dinner at Rum Runners. 8 - 10 p.m.
14 Rum on the Beach at Plaza Resort 5 - 8 p.m.
15 Underwater Rum Hunt Buddy Dive max 50 divers 12 p.m. Rum Lunch by Chef Rodrigo Sanchez at the Harbour Village Beach Club, 12 p.m. \$99 pp.
 Rom Rincon Party at Divi Flamingo Resort 5 - 7 p.m.
16 Rum Cocktail at Buddy Dive 5 - 7 p.m.
16 Rum Party and dinner at Brass Boer 7 - 10 p.m. \$150 pp.
 For info: <https://www.bonaireumweek.com>

Saturday, June 17
Lora Festival-Nature, Art & Cultural Market, 4-8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. See poster below.

Taste of Bonaire 2023 (With a rum flavor) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.

Sunday, June 18
Father's Day

June 19 - June 25
First Annual Yoga & Wellness Week

Wednesday, June 21
Free Sunset yoga on Summer Solstice Seru Largu 5:30 p.m. RSVP preferred: Kelly: 599 7010110 @FitforLifeathletics | Miranda: +1 425 7859808 @samudrayogaflow

Friday, June 23
Ancient DNA research in Bonaire News Café at Terramar Museum. 6-8 p.m. How will they research this? And why is this research important? Dr. Haviser and Dr. Sirak will answer questions in short presentations and a moderated conversation. Join us to learn about Bonaire's indigenous heritage and roots. See page 5

June 22 - June 25
Pride Bonaire. See poster with schedule this page. <https://www.facebook.com/people/Pride-Bonaire/100090765037838/>

Saturday, June 24
Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps meeting: 12 Step Meeting, Wednesdays at Kaya Den Haag 30 in Hato. Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com


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 Kaminda Djabou (behind Budget Marine). Open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee. Wednesday evenings Apr. 19 - June 14 The Stoked Men and Women Doubles League.


Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All playing levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (only whatsapp text messages), bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>


Cyclovía Kids Street Park Wilhelminaplein 4 - 7 p.m. Free monthly event. Children of all ages can bike, scooter, skate or skateboard. Expect a bouncy castle, music and a hot dog cart. First Sunday of the month: May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

Pickleball. Wednesdays & Fridays 6 - 8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. Come join the fun. A sport for all ages.

 **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. Presentations 7:30 p.m.: June 12 at VIP; June 19 at Divi Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook email: Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org

 **Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Sundays 5:30 p.m. Blennies Restaurant - Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org

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



PRIDE BONAIRE CALENDAR

- JUN 21 ZORGCONFERENTIE** PLAZA HOTEL
- JUN 21 SPONSORBORREL** IT RAINS FISHES *INVITATION ONLY
- JUN 22 OPENING EXPOSITIE: NOS T'EI, BO T'EI** SOBREMESA, KAS DI ARTE
- JUN 23 PRIDE PUBQUIZ** HILLSIDE BOOZE DOWN HILSBART JUNG
- JUN 24 SELEBRA - PARTY** NARPYTE 20:00 - 23:00
- JUN 25 ZUËMBRUK CHILLINGS** THE BONAIREAN FOOD & BEV

Nos t'ei, nos t'ei #PRIDEBONAIRE



Festival di Lora
 Nature, Art & Cultural Market
 Proud of our Parrot

Echo Invites local artists, photographers and producers of arts & crafts to join the **Nature, Art & Cultural Market** on June 17th 2023. Participation is free. Echo will be providing each participant with a table for art display, and a chair.

On June 17th Echo will be organising the first edition of **Festival di Lora**. The event highlights education and awareness around parrots. Echo's goal is also to show how Bonaire's nature and unique culture are connected to one another.

Register before June 9 via
lorafestival@gmail.com

Festival di Lora
 June 17 2023
 16.00 - 20.00
 Jong Bonaire

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, June 11	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Lionfish derby



Bonaire's reef fish population is a bit safer following STINAPA's recent Lionfish Derby on our southern reefs May 27. A 'recorded' number of 80 invasive predator lionfish were eradicated from our reefs by nine teams of hunters.

STINAPA was on hand to record the fish turned in per team, measure and then clean the fish in preparation for a delicious meal of lionfish sushi, ceviche and fried lionfish put together by Bonaire culinary team members

Active monthly hunters Private Divers caught a record number of 27 fish. The largest lionfish was 41.1 cm (16.2 in) brought in by Death from Above and the smallest was 16.4 cm (6.45 in) by Go Scuba Go. Many of the hunters had fish tales of the ones that got away as larger lionfish have learned to hide when a diver approaches.

The invasive lionfish affect our native ecosystem by feeding on reef fish and crustaceans that control algae on our reefs. When they first appeared on Bonaire's reefs in 2009, STINAPA organized lionfish hunting by issuing a certification/license and approving spears. In 2014, STINAPA held a two-day island wide lionfish derby resulting in a catch of almost 1000 fish.

According to STINAPA biologist Paulo Bertuol, Bonaire's lionfish population has changed. On June 7 at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Plaza Resort he will present the latest insights on the species and describe their effect and impact on our reefs. He will also describe the latest monitoring. *Story/photos Julie Morgan*



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Dance your way to aging gracefully

Dancing has been with us, even before the arrival of written language. In tough times, it was a way for our prehistoric ancestors to bond and communicate. The first archaeological proof of dance comes from a 9000-year-old cave painting in India. Since its origins, dance was a way to bond and communicate. As it developed, becoming more complex, it fulfilled different functions, from religious ceremonies and rituals to entertaining as a social expression or a performing art.

Dancing is sensing and matching an external beat with rhythmic movements of the body. This requires a great deal of coordination among different parts of the brain and the rest of the body. A network of neurons isolates the beat, predicts the pattern and sends signals to the parts of the brain that control the muscles. This capacity appears between three and five years of age. Humans have amazing synchronization abilities, being able to follow slowing or speeding beats with great accuracy. Once the beat is identified there is a capacity to predict up to a certain degree the changes in the rhythm.

Studies show that dancing is associated with a 76% reduced risk of dementia. It improves overall mental health and cognitive functions, especially spatial memory, spatial orientation, balance and peripheral vision. Dancing, being the combination of physical activity and sensory enrichment, has a superior effect on adult neuroplasticity. More so than conventional fitness as it also improves the connectivity between both cerebral hemispheres. The more challenging the dance, in terms of coordination and not in terms of acrobatic skills, the better the structural brain changes that counteract the effects of aging on the brain. Dance is social, physical and cognitive. When a person is engaged in these three things simultaneously, long lasting improvements are produced in the brain such as growth in the memory center or hippocampus. In Parkinson patients some symptoms are reduced when engaged in dance therapy as balance and walking are improved.

Dancing can also be a good therapy treatment for depression by focusing on body movements and emotional expression. Dancing also helps with social interaction, isolation being one of the leading causes of depression in the elderly.

Dancing has basically the same benefits of conventional physical activity, it strengthens bones and mus-

cles with little impact on the joints, thus reducing the risk of osteoporosis. It helps tone the body and control excess weight. Regular dancing improves stamina, endurance, strength and general conditioning by improving flexibility, lung capacity, blood circulation and muscles. Dancing also reduces stress and frustration as it is fun and provides plenty of chances to laugh.

There is also the notion of kinesthetic empathy, which means by mirroring the movements of another person it provides the neural basis for empathy and compassion between people.

So, when thinking about physical activity, it doesn't always mean going to the gym. There are places on Bonaire where you can dance for fun or enroll in a dance class. If this doesn't work for you; you can always organize a dance party and invite your friends over to have a good time and improve overall health.



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.

At Your Service

To advertise on this page: ad spaces are \$22 per issue for a minimum of six issues at \$132 + ABB 6% for a total of 139.92.

In our online issue the ads are INTERACTIVE linked to your email, website or Facebook.

Contact us at bonairereporter2019@gmail.com or 796-4055 (cell/Whatsapp).

Bruce Bowker's
CARIB INN
OPEN DAILY
8am to 5pm
• Boat Diving
• Full-Service
Dive Shop
• Repairs
www.caribinn.com
JA Abraham Blvd 46
717-8819 • info@CaribInn.com

Yoga Sensibile
Eden Beach Resort
Mon. 8am & 5.30pm; Tue. Wed. Thu. 8am
Fri. & Sat. 8.30am; Private class on request
Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de
www.elisabettamaccari.com

BEST CELLARS
WINE & SPIRITS
Wines & Bubbles Liquors & Tobacco
Kaya Industrial, Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm

Bonaire Scuba
PRIVATE PADI COURSES
CUSTOM GUIDED DIVES
EQUIPMENT RENTALS
www.bonairecuba.com
+599-777-3483 (777DIVE)

MG
Furniture
Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-6 p.m. / Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
24 Kaya Grandi - +599-777-1520

MULTISHOP
Local Arts and Crafts - Souvenirs
Handmade One of a Kind Items
locally crafted - paintings, drawings,
photography, jewelry, clothing, cards & more
Located at Hato roundabout
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm / Sat 9am-2pm
599-796-1715

island time
vacation rentals bonaire
indulgent ocean view vacation rentals
+599 700 1660
info@islandtimebonaire.com
www.islandtimebonaire.com
www.facebook.com/islandtimerentals

KW BONAIRE
KELLER WILLIAMS.
+599-701-1606
BRENDA HOLLING - AGENT
brenda.holling@kwbonaire.com
kwbonaire.com
kaya simon bolivar 20

Denture Prosthetist
Full or Partial Dentures
New and Repairs
Call for an Appointment - 717-2248
Thijs van Zijl - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)
tandprothetische praktijk
BONAIRE
tandprothetische praktijk

For all your MARINE and residential SEWING needs
CUSTOM CANVAS
cushions - covers - roofs - shades
SAIL & KITE REPAIR
LOCATED AT: KAYA BENI 6A
Near the VSB supermarket / project pick up and drop off available
TEL: 780 9124
www.phishphactory.com

Unlimited
Car Rental
Sedans - Trucks - Economy
+599-785-1266
unlimitedbonaire.com
info@unlimitedbonaire.com

petals
BONAIRE
Order online!
Petalsbonaire.com
Kaya Gen. C.M. Piar #10
+599 777 2055
Weekdays: 9:00-12:00
13:00-17:30
Saturday: 13:00-15:00

CARIBBEAN ISLANDS
MANTA
CONSERVATION
PROGRAM

OPEN APRIL 1
The Touch
KUNUKU
SPA
Kaya Caribe 57 +599-785-6378

OUTDOOR
BONAIRE
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPELLING
ABSEIL • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING
+(599) 785-6272
hansoutdoor@hotmail.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com

THE STOREHOUSE
MANGASINA
Call 700-1753
www.bonaireselfstorage.com
info@bonaireselfstorage.com

ezone
Easy, Affordable, Fast
Shop on-line & we will ship to you
<https://www.getezone.com>

The brands you want
Xprodiver
Bonaire
The service you need
Atomic Zeagle
Hollis Oceanic
BONAIRE@XPRODIVER.COM
777-7333 (REEF)

JEWELRY • HOUSEWARE • DECOR
Open: Mon - Fri
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Terramar 8, Kralendijk
+599-7011880
www.moltenwolfglass.com
Locally Made By Artists In Bonaire

Divi Divi Air
Frequent Daily Flights Between Bonaire, Curaçao & Aruba
Reservations 24 hours a day Call +5999 839-1515 or +5999 563-1913

Bonaire Landsailing Adventures
Open daily for bookings
Reserve online
www.landsailingadventures.com

MANGROVE
MANIACS
LAC RESTORATION PROJECT

Shelter News

The summer heat has arrived early this year...if it is too hot outside for you it's even hotter for your pet! Animals don't have efficient cooling systems like humans (we sweat) and can overheat easily. Here are some tips to keep your furry companions cool and safe and to avoid heatstroke.

- Take walks only in the early morning and/or late evening. Try to walk in shaded areas.
- If the pavement is too hot for your bare feet, guess what...it's too hot for your pet's paws. Avoid hot surfaces like asphalt or concrete that can burn your pet's paws. Avoid the beaches during this hot weather, the sand is too hot for them too.
- Take breaks and offer water frequently.
- At home be sure your dog or cat has shade in an open area (a dog house is too hot) and plenty of access to cool water. Large, deep bowls keep water cooler longer; you can add a few ice cubes during the day to keep the water cool.
- Fill a large container with water for your dog to splash or lie in. Or wet him down with a hose during the day.
- Wet some towels and put them in the shade for your dog or cat to lie on. Alternatively, a frozen water bottle wrapped in a towel for your dog or cat to lie beside works too.



- Don't assume your pet knows when to stop being active! Dogs with "no quitter" attitudes and hyperactive dogs can run themselves into heat stroke or exhaustion without hesitation. Always make sure you have control of your pet in extreme heat.
- Short snouted dogs like Bulldogs and Pugs are more prone to heatstroke and should be carefully monitored.
- **AVOID THE CAR WHEN IT IS HOT AND NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET ALONE IN IT!** Even when parked in the shade with windows open, temperatures in cars rise extremely

quickly which can cause your pet to dehydrate and develop heat stroke which can be fatal. If your pet must travel in the car stop for frequent water breaks to keep it hydrated.

SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

IN DOGS:

Heavy panting; excessive drooling; excess saliva; bright red, gray, purple or bluish gums; muscle tremors; trouble standing or walking; dizziness; vomiting; diarrhea; rapid pulse.

IN CATS:

Rapid breathing; rapid pulse; redness of tongue and mouth; "sweaty" feet; stumbling or staggering; panting; drooling; vomiting; excessive grooming; lethargy.

If your pet exhibits these signs **YOU NEED TO GET TO THE VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY AND CONDUCT SOME FIRST AID ON THE WAY.** Cool your pet on the way with air conditioning in the car and/or lightly cool them with water from a spray bottle (NOT ice water). Get them drinking water on the way if they are able to drink. Heat stroke is a serious condition that requires immediate attention and intensive care is generally required to save your pet's life. Any initial first aid treatment on the way to the vet greatly increases the chance of survival but is not enough.

Jane Disko

Pet of the Week



Candy Cat

Who wants to play with me?

Hi, my name is Candy. I'm a girl of 1 1/2 year old. Over a year ago I came, together with my mom and siblings, to the Animal Shelter. I like this place a lot but it's time to go now and live somewhere with a loving family.

I can get along with other cats. Dogs, I don't know because I only saw dogs outside the cat palace, the place where I live now.

I love to play with you or sit and watch TV.

I have a beautiful gray tabby pattern, I'm one of a kind.

I'm tested NEG on FIV/L, had all my vaccinations, sterilized and will be chipped the moment you decide I'm your furrever girl.

Photo/story Monique Degenaar

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 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Covid v SCTLD

Remember how nasty Covid-19 was at the beginning?

Seriously, think back. Remember all those guidelines from reliable sources, guidelines that changed daily, or that contradicted each other?

Imagine how bad Covid would have been with these four not-so-little differences: 1. It infected not just people, but most mammals. 2. Community members were physically unable to leave their communities in any way. 3. Community members were unable to filter their breathing or disinfect anything. 4. Once any community (of people, of prairie dogs, of cattle) became infected, almost every individual in the entire community died within weeks if not more quickly.

Please, take a moment to imagine this.

When I first wondered about how Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD for short in writing, spoken as "skittle-d", or more often "that d.n skittle-d") would compare with Covid, I was astonished to realize how much worse the SCTLD is than Covid, except that Covid attacks people and SCTLD attacks corals. Thank goodness the two horrors didn't attack simultaneously...

SCTLD is currently being fought on two major fronts: first, using a version of antibiotic paste mixture on diseased corals, which is likely to stop the disease from progressing where it is applied. Unfortunately, though, the antibiotic paste doesn't necessarily protect the rest of the same coral colony, which may become diseased elsewhere and die anyway.

A second front for battling SCTLD is by securing potential breeding populations of the affected corals. That sounds so simple, doesn't it? Until you realize it means that people who have spent decades protecting corals will be deliberately breaking perfectly healthy coral colonies, and transporting chunks of them to aquaria. Their goal is to keep the corals alive to repopulate the Caribbean, should the corals be completely wiped out in the wild. Something recognized less than ten years

ago is believed to be on its way to destroying dozens of types of coral. It sounds more like science fiction than reality, but it's reality and startling evidence as to how seriously this disease is being taken.

A third front against SCTLD is that of doing everything possible to keep unaffected corals healthy, including lessening the impact of divers. Bonaire is one of the few places where this kind of protection can be established. We'll be able to tell future generations about how we protected the coral on Klein Bonaire and our north coast, simply by leaving it alone for a while, and how we disinfected our gear to protect other areas.

In fewer than twenty years, SCTLD has threatened around 30 different species of coral with extinction. It was officially recognized as being on Bonaire only this year.

What does its presence mean? What's the significance of stony coral dying? The answer is simple:

Stony corals build the reef.

When stony corals die, their unprotected skeletons are worn down by boring sponges, encrusting algae, algae-eaters like parrotfish and damselfish, and all sorts of other organisms. Over time, the dead reef shrinks; its cracks and crevices fill with debris, and fewer homesites are available to crabs, anemones, morays, and even cleaner gobies. Where will Lady Squid find ledges under which to attach her egg capsules?

When a whole reef dies, it's generally because of water pollution or siltation or some other physical event, and many other animals are poisoned or smothered in addition to the corals. SCTLD is different because it's solely killing stony corals. So far, the effect of SCTLD on our reef habitats can't be measured. Let's hope things never get that far along.

Reef Glimpses, continued on page 20



Photo Julie Morgan

A recent photo of healthy corals on a Bonaire reef

A couple of additional thoughts. We've all been taking photos of SCTLDed corals, but isn't now the time to photograph the healthy corals? All of the corals, actually; what we're seeing is unprecedented, so any documentation will be useful. Ideas could be useful, too. My best idea at the moment is to bioengineer zooxanthella (the alga that live within coral polyps) so they kill all forms of SCTLD. Next, introduce those zoox into the at-risk corals (maybe after bleaching?). Each coral colony would then be protected by its own algal army. That's some serious symbiosis!

Now, if it could only be reality!
What's your idea?



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.

LA CASA DEL HABANO

BONAIRE

RUM TASTING EVENT

JUNE 14TH 8:00 PM

YOU WILL ENJOY:

RON VARADERO 15 YEARS

RON CANEY 12 YEARS

RON CANEY AÑEJO CENTURIA

LIVE MUSIC BY BETER PA TOKADO

ROCARGO

LOGISTICS SERVICES B.V.

Experts in Expediting

WEEKLY CONSOLIDATED CONTAINER SHIPMENT FROM U.S. AND EUROPE

CUSTOMS SPECIALIST - LOGISTICS PAPERWORK INBOUND AND OUTBOUND

MOVING AND RELOCATION

WAREHOUSING STORAGE - AIRFREIGHT

WWW.ROCARGO.COM - INFO@ROCARGO.COM