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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Klein Bonaire's No Name Beach
Photo Julie Morgan

STINAPA'S Bonaire National Marine Park listens

Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) held its second platform meeting led by former BNMP manager Kalli de Meyer with input from current manager Judith Raming on July 20. Although the meeting's primary focus was on Klein Bonaire, it also proposed solutions to concerns raised by attendees in April's first platform meeting, as well as dealing with sargassum, moorings, and SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease).

At the April meeting, BNMP manager Judith Raming said, "We want to hear the voice of the people who use the [marine] park..." The attendees responded with a list of 65 complaints and suggestions: more focused meetings, BNMP ranger visibility, ease of contact, more outreach and information. Stakeholders didn't feel heard. Users asked for clearer rules and regulations and a more active social media presence.

The BNMP listened and acted.

Outreach. Hours for BNMP have been expanded from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. An off-hour contact number has been designated, +599-777-8444. Outreach and information for users is available. An online presence will launch on August 15 called 'Marine Park Informs.' This will give more info via social media and website with videos, infographics and links to government legislation. Videos will include information on moorings, boats, diving, fishing and water activities. STINAPA's Facebook messages and emails will be answered with facts within 24-48 hrs. except on weekends. Rules and regulations are now posted on the website. Different languages will be included in the future.

Regarding cruisers, the Water Circles group, a collaboration between WWF-NL, (World Wildlife Fund), STINAPA, WEB and OLB, is currently using dye tablets in yacht holding tanks to discourage illegal dumping. Tank locks were tried but one size doesn't fit all, so more locks have been ordered. Rangers are patrolling the mooring field more regularly.

Rules. Over 400 registered warnings were issued by the rangers this year with 30 active cases. Many cases are related to building/construction noncompliance along Bonaire's coast. Each of the 250 companies operating in water sports or activities in the park are required to have a Nature Permit. BNMP is checking to ensure all companies hold this permit. Boat Captain licenses will be required for all boat operators beginning January 1, 2024. Boat rental companies will need to have a license, but unlicensed renters will still be allowed (not a BNMP decision).

Sargassum. The 2023 sargassum season invasion was approximately 30 days compared to 51 days in 2022. The government has provided oil booms and STINAPA is working on the most effective placement. Excavator machinery has limited the need for countless volunteers to hand rake the sargassum. Earlier

STINAPA's focus was on Lac; it is now on Lagun.

SCTLD. Advisory committee for decisions regarding SCTLD is made up of the island financial/economic department, spatial planning department, harbour master, TCB, STINAPA, and members of Bonaire's executive council. Decisions for limited use on Klein Bonaire: Island ordinance 2001 nr Article 3 sub 4 under IV; The managing authority is authorized to close parts of Klein Bonaire temporarily to the public when necessary for the restoration, conservation and / or enhancement of the nature values and for the protection of flora and fauna.

To help contain the spread of SCTLD, boat visits are limited until September 30: Monday to Sunday 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. No diving/ snorkeling is allowed on Sunday from 2 – 7 p.m. Time limits are in place to prevent divers/

snorkelers from diving in a red zone in the morning and on Klein in the afternoon.

Rangers will implement spot checks at resorts, hotels, B&B's and dive shops to ensure sanitizing rinse tanks for gear are available.

Due to the limited hours on the moorings, a pilot reservation system will be tested this month for the 26 dive sites on Klein Bonaire. No details were given.

Many of Bonaire's stony corals have been lost to SCTLD. Antibiotics are being used and evaluations are being made with ongoing assessments on Klein Bonaire by BNMP rangers.

Rangers. Rangers have increased their patrol on Klein and collect garbage 1-2 times per week at No Name Beach. In the future two rangers will have a permanent presence on Klein to provide information and assistance.

Klein Bonaire was purchased in 1999 with private funds after a public campaign. It is managed by STINAPA under contract with the island government and is recognized as an international, national and Ramsar park. Island Ordinance says: "Considering the fact that Klein Bonaire belongs to nature and the flora and fauna present on the island, humans are no more than guests. The protection of Klein Bonaire is paramount and people are therefore subordinate to nature."

Prohibited on Klein: cave diving, cave snorkeling, no pets or overnighting without written permission.

Permitted on Klein: diving, snorkeling, swimming, sailing and traditional fishing.

BNMP engaged the crowd for opinions about policy on Klein Bonaire:

Should tourists' use be regulated? Watch tower for rangers on Klein? Toilets on No Name? Landing zone for snorkel boats? Implement a fee on Klein for boats? Should there be BBQ pits on No Name Beach? Should there be a day for locals only?

The next BNMP Platform meeting will be November 23. *Story/photos Julie Morgan*



Government resigns but social minimum may still be on table

Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who first took office in 2010 and is the longest serving prime minister of the Netherlands in history, has announced the resignation of his government. His fragile four-party coalition failed to find common ground on an immigration policy. He says he intends to retire from politics.

The Rutte coalition will continue as the caretaker government until the new elections, which are scheduled for November 22. Therefore the government of the Netherlands will not have a mandate to make major decisions until well into next year. The uncertainty is a major concern for the Public Body of Bonaire. According to executive council member Hennyson Thielman, "The fall of the cabinet . . . will cause delays on files that are still pending and we regret that." Deputy Jolinda Craane said, "We are facing major backlogs here. When it comes to poverty, we can't use a delay right now."

Outgoing Minister for Poverty Carola Schouten has informed the House of Representatives that she will increase the statutory minimum wage on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius to 143% above the social minimum benchmark. The increase cannot take effect until the benchmark social minimum has been determined, however, and that decision is still pending. Schouten expects the Caribbean Netherlands Social Minimum Commission to announce its findings by October 1 of this year; and in an earlier motion the house affirmed its plan to set a social minimum for the Caribbean Netherlands as soon as possible. Whether the interim government will fulfill that intention seems uncertain.

Schouten and State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen say they are working together in an attempt to get the social minimum approved while they are still in office. *DMR*

Rotary Club Bonaire supports Unkobon lawsuit

In 2022, consumer association Unkobon sued the State of the Netherlands for failing to set a social minimum for Bonaire that is equivalent to the one in Europe. The Rotary Club Bonaire has donated \$5,000 to support the suit.

In the European part of the Netherlands, a social minimum has been in place for decades. All residents of the Netherlands are entitled to an income that is sufficient to cover living expenses. If their income from work or business is below the minimum, the State makes up the difference. *DMR*

(L-R) Harry Somers of Unkobon with Gregory Obersi and Jan Okhuijsen of Rotary Club Bonaire



TCB honors three "Friends of Bonaire"

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is proud to recognize Gerarda Dirksz, owner of Kunuku Spa - a Haven of Modern Relaxation; Ryan Augusta, a kite surf instructor at Kite City; and Davide Chiarlo, Dive Friends instructor, for their remarkable contributions to the tourism industry on Bonaire.

Visitors are encouraged to share their stories, photographs, or videos of exceptional encounters with the local community through the dedicated Bonaire Friends page at <https://bonaireisland.com/bonaire-friends/>.

Gerarda Dirksz is shown in photo with TCB employees.
Photo TCB



Amsterdam goes to war against mass tourism – banning cruise ships

Amsterdam plans to ban cruise ships from the city center. Thursday night, the City Council passed, with a large majority, an applicable motion, banning the ships. The ban is a further measure to curb mass tourism and the increasing air pollution. The cruise ship terminal on the river IJ, close to the Central Station, has to move to elsewhere.

"The polluting cruise ships do not meet the sustainability targets of our city," said D66 politician Ilana Roederkerk. "It's time to act. Climate doesn't wait."

A study by Research Institute CE Delft revealed, that a cruise ship, docked in Amsterdam, ejects as many pollutants as 31,000 full size trucks on the Amsterdam Ring Road.

Venice: 80 percent less pollutant emissions after ban

Amsterdam's governing party D66 also refers to Venice, banning large cruise ships since 2021. Since the ban, according to a recently published study, the emission of polluting substances has decreased by 80%.

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Translation GB

Executive Council reprimanded for lack of transparency

Responding to complaints from Bonaire's Island Council, Deputy State Representative Jan Helmond has instructed the Executive Council to present an action plan for improving its communications with the Island Council, residents, businesses, and organizations on the islands. He sent the same instructions to the Executive Council of Saba, asking both councils to respond by October 1.

The mutual communication and information flow between the Executive Council and the Council must be improved, the councilors say. They complain especially about the Executive Council's failure to provide them with documents they need to prepare for the discussions and decisions scheduled for various meetings. They also say the Executive Council does not inform them about decisions it has made.

Helmond pointed out that rules have been agreed upon regarding the disclosure of government decisions, including decisions made by the executive councils of the Public Bodies Bonaire, Saba, and Sint-Eustatius. These rules are, among others, stipulated in the WolBES and the Bekendmakingswet (Publication Law) *DMR*.

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 4

The REPORTER

This Issue's Stories

STINAPA reports	1
BIA welcomes Winair	3
Nos Zijle - "Bonaire has talent"	3
Floating dock is coming	4
Subsidies for slavery commemoration	5
Hotline for kids - Guanachat	6
Cleaning barios; Quarterly dive clean up	7
Saving the Sabal Palm	8
Cadushy Captain Don's whisky	13
Venzie fruit boats arrive	15
Women's dive day	16

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:	
•Government resigns; Rotary donates to Unkobon lawsuit; Three TCB friends; Amsterdam bans cruise ships; BC not transparent	2
•Four garbage trucks; TUI charging stations; Drainage to be improved; Pensions must register; Stadium upgraded	4
Ask Bob (Contingency Pt.2)	4
Opinions/Letters: (No trust in government)	4
Police Report	5
Parrots & People (Cliffhanger)	6
Artist Spotlight: Judmar Emerenciana	6
Piss & Vinegar (Late 2000s vs today)	7
Foodies' Dining Guide	9
Tank Talk (AGE)	10
Optimum Health (Fear/anxiety)	10
Reef Glimpses: (Sponges)	11
Chef Corjan (Coffee Bean Parfait)	11
What's Happening (Events; Cruise ships; Clean ups; 23 Artifacts; Winter flights)	12
Garden (Making tea. Part 2)	13
Accessibility (Accepting help)	13
Business Directory	14
Pets of the Week (Cats-Henry & Harvey; Dog-Vivi)	15
Shelter (Doggie Dates; 40th coming up)	15

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Pakus is still OPEN in a downsized version at the old location on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m

BIA welcomes Winair



A traditional cake was served to welcome the new airline to BIA.

(L-R) Miles Mercera, Caroline Poros, Jolinda Craane, Maarten vd Scheer Photo Julie Morgan

Interisland airline Winair was welcomed to Bonaire International Airport (BIA) in an official re-inauguration flight on July 16 with a ceremony in the BIA TecnoBar.

The new ATR-42-500 aircraft arrived to a water salute and welcoming gifts for the 48 passengers. Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) CEO Miles Mercera was on the flight. A small celebratory party was held in BIA's TecnoBar with TCB staff joined by Mercera, BIA director Maarten vd Scheer, Bonaire deputy of administrative renewal, business management and economy Jolinda Craane, Miss Tourism Caroline Poros and Winair sales and station manager for Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, Steve Sloop.

Along with Winair joining the list of

airlines servicing BIA to provide local air service, several other improvements are in the works or completed at BIA. A new baggage carousel has been added along with a covered awning for the stair ramp. A new Ambu-Lift will soon be in use to enable disabled passengers to board and disembark larger airplanes.

Winair serves 13 destinations in the Caribbean: Antigua, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Dominica, San Juan, Haiti, St Kitts, St Eustatius, St Maarten, St Barth and Tortola. Winair will service Bonaire two times a week for now, Sunday and Tuesday. For more information visit

Fly-winair.sx

Story/photos Julie Morgan

Nos Zjilea "Bonaire has Talent"

Bonaire has its own writers, composers, architects, doctors, nurses, and technicians. We have our own models in fashion, sports and business. Anyone can do what we do, but not everyone can give it the Bonairean touch. Bonaire can be proud of its many talents.

The cultural event of Nos Zjilea Saturday, July 29 will be dedicated to the stories behind these talents. Monica Clarinda, a local writer, will tell us about her experiences and the last piece she has written. Jada Martinez will present her poem "Pueblo Mansu" ("Tamed Folk")

One of the beauty pageants on the island is Miss Teen Bonaire. Two of the six young ladies competing will tell us how the par-

ticipants prepare for their final judging.

The cultural market is full of local art and fresh products such as natural juices, herbal teas, and delicacies. The kitchen opens at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of soups and Creole dishes, including a delicious grill.

We will have "LIVE" performances by local bands "Dairons Entertainment Band" and "Kariño."

Experience 'Nos Zjilea,' the monthly cultural event of Bonaire, on Saturday, July 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. It doesn't get more local than this. See our fan page, www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei.

Izaïn Mercera



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Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

No trust in Bonaire's government

It is no wonder that no one has any trust in our government.

We watch as:

Land deals are struck that have no business being struck;

Street projects are approved then never finished according to plan and there are promises of investigations and no reports ever surface;

Building Projects are approved by a Governor override and although it was properly overturned and the Governor was placed in a position where he can do no harm, the corruption doesn't slow down;

A NL oversight investigation (ILT) suggests that DROP has no 'consistency' in its application of poorly written building and land use guidelines requiring monitoring and control from the NL (where it will only be 'out of sight, out of mind');

The illegal and unpermitted dumping of sand at Chocogo is still an ongoing issue;

Government land is given out under false pretenses, causes harm and loss of use to parties that were supposed to have

been consulted, initiates an investigation and never reports (because they don't want to admit to wrongdoing and do not want to correct their mistakes);

The BC makes a resolution to absolve themselves from prosecution and liability after the fact when an investigation into the 'senior funds' budget overrun is mounted.

Whoever heard of such a thing?!?!?

It is time that the government and ALL those employed are held to the highest standards of integrity.

The Prosecutors have, so far, been worthless in upholding the enforcement of clear ethical and legal violations committed ultimately against all of us as residents of Bonaire.

It is time for us to let them know that we see the wrongdoing and that we expect them to put a stop to it. We have the recourse to complain to the Ombudsman and that helps in that it becomes public and investigated although not always resolved but the pressure needs to be applied.

Respectfully, Charles M. Baltayan

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



You mentioned an inspection contingency in recent column, how does that work?

Janet

(See previous contingency column in "Ask Bob" in our online archives: Issue #6 March 15, 2023 at <https://bonairereporter.com>)

Hi Janet,

This is a good question, because inspections can be different depending on where you live. In some countries, buyers are the ones who determine if an inspection is satisfactory. They may expect the Seller to repair anything listed on an inspection report, or to lower the selling price to cover repairs.

On Bonaire, the terms of the inspection are agreed upon in the purchase agreement in advance of the inspection so that there is no misunderstanding between buyer and seller. An inspection contingency might have wording similar to "This offer contingent upon a technical inspection that does not identify more than \$X,XXX in required repairs as determined by the inspector." The Buyer and Seller agree upon the dollar amount. Let's use \$5,000 for our example.

If the inspection identifies structural, technical or invisible deficiencies of \$5,000 or less that require repair, the purchase agreement is still valid and the seller has no obligation to fix the deficiency or renegotiate the price. If the amount of required repairs is higher than the agreed upon amount, the buyer has the option to void the purchase agreement. In some cases, the Seller will offer to pay for repair of deficiencies above the agreed upon amount to continue with the sale. If the inspection indicated \$5,500 in repairs, using our example of a \$5,000 contingency, the Seller might offer a price reduction of \$500, which is the amount over the agreed upon \$5,000.

The inspector will clearly note what repairs are required, and what items may need attention eventually, but are not required. (for example, an older airco unit which is nearing the end of its usable life, but is still in working order and does not require repair or replacement at this time.) Remember that only the items noted as "required" on the report count towards the dollar amount of the contingency, not cosmetic repairs or suggestions for future maintenance.

All the best, Bob

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FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

Selibon gets four garbage trucks

When the Selibon workers went on strike in April, their principle demand was for more, better, and safer equipment, especially garbage trucks. Their old trucks were neither safe nor adequate to serve Bonaire's mushrooming population they said.

Four used trucks have been purchased from Aruba, and four new trucks, now on order, will be delivered in the first quarter of 2024. The used trucks are on the island and will be put in service as soon as they have been thoroughly overhauled. *DMR*

New vaccinations coming in October

In October those who are 60 and over, those with a high health risk, and health-care workers will be vaccinated against Covid-19 again. The new vaccine will provide protection against the latest variants of the coronavirus. *DMR*

Island drainage being renovated

The island government has started maintenance and reconstruction work on dams and runoff channels to prevent flooding like that the island experienced during the last rainy season. *DMR*

Living pensioners should contact the government

People who receive an AOV or AWW benefit must demonstrate to Social Affairs and Employment that they are still alive and therefore retain their eligibility. They can bring their sedula to the office of the Bonaire RCN unit without an appointment. Social Affairs employees will visit residents of institutions to contact pensioners there. Pensioners in Rincon will be able to register in August at a date and time yet to be announced. *DMR*

Stadium in Playa being upgraded

The stadium in the center of Kralendijk has been shut down until the end of September. It will be refurbished to make it a more pleasant and safer venue for sporting events. The stadium in Rincon will be used during the interim. *DMR*

TUI to install charging stations on Bonaire

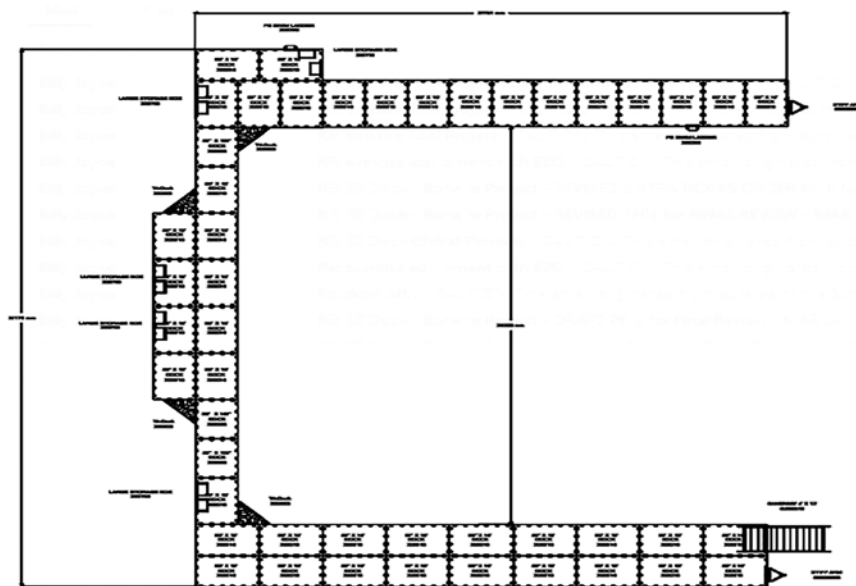
Travel organization TUI has announced they will install ten charging stations for electric transport on Bonaire in collaboration with Dynaf. This initiative is intended to promote the sustainability of the island and to stimulate the use of electric transport.

TUI and the government are deciding about locations for the charging stations. Sorobon and other well-known beaches are at the top of the list, as well as Rincon and 1000 steps.

TUI intends to install a total of 55 charging stations in the ABC islands. The charging stations will be financed by TUI's Fair Travel program. A € 2 donation, which is then matched by TUI, is included in the price of every ticket. This money is invested in projects to support the local population and economy at TUI destinations. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

We are getting very close!

by Pam Teitel



After decades discussing the improvement of conditions for swimming, we are finally going to realize great strides in the very near future. Several related projects are about to reach the finish line. The first is a floating pier enclosure to make a 25m pool, just off Park Tului next to SKAL where the water polo teams play/practice

which will improve the conditions greatly. This project is accomplished with the support of Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport (VWS) and will be owned and operated by Indebon. With great support from STINAPA, Budget Marine will be installing the pier. Following installation, STINAPA will build

Getting close to installing a floating dock, continued on page 15

POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

July 16. In the morning hours a man, 25, was detained at Kaya Aguila for receiving stolen goods. A little later, a man, 18, was detained. The two men were spotted working on a scooter that had been stolen.

July 14/15. A black / gray Senzo scooter license plate MF-3380 was stolen when parked with a steering lock at an entertainment venue on Kaya Hermandad.

June 30. Four hubcaps were stolen from a Toyota Yaris parked at a catering facility on Kaminda Lac.

Arrests

July 20. Around 5:30 p.m. a brawl ended in stabbing in Amboina. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance. A little later, a man, 39, was arrested at a house on Kaya Adela.

July 17. On July 16, a patrol attempted to arrest a man, 33, who was involved in a theft at a catering facility on Kaya Neerlandia between July 7-8. The suspect fought with the officers and ran away. On Monday, July 17, he was spotted by a patrol at a knuke and arrested for theft.

July 17. The control room received a report that some bags with a substance similar to narcotics were found in a room of tourists who were on board a cruise ship. Two suspects were arrested under the BES Opium Act, a woman and initials a man, both 29. The bags were confiscated for further investigation.

July 11. Around 2:15 p.m., a fight broke out between two women in an establishment located on Kaya Soeur Bartola. A police patrol was in the building due to another case and stopped the fight. The women aged 29 and 22 have been arrested for assault.

July 9. At the Hanchi Amboina after a collision, a victim was assaulted and robbed. Three men, aged 24, 28, and 38 were arrested for assault and theft.

July 8. Around 4 p.m., a man was reported walking around Kaya Industria with a stabbing weapon. The man, 63, was arrested for violation of the BES Weapons Act.

July 8. Around 11:15 a.m. a man who was stabbed got into his car and drove to another location where he called the central control room. A man, 72, was arrested for assault with a weapon.

July 1. A man, 36, was arrested for assault with a weapon after he hit a victim with a bottle. The victim was treated by paramedics and then taken to hospital for medical treatment.

Driving under the influence

July 21. In the night a man, 64, was arrested for driving under the influence and was banned from driving for eight hours. He hit a wall on Bulevar Gobernador Debrot.

July 19. In the afternoon a man, 44, was arrested for driving under the influence and banned from driving for 9 hours. He was involved in a collision at the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko Noord and Hanchi Amboina. He was unable to show a valid proof of insurance. He was also unsteady on his legs and spoke with double tongue. In the later afternoon hours, the suspect came to the counter at the police station where he insulted employees. This was reason to arrest him again.

July 16. A man, 42, was arrested for driving under the influence on Kaya Nikiboko South. He was spotted driving in a prohibited direction. On Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago, a man, 44, swerved on the road and was stopped, then arrested for driving under the influence. In the early morning hours a man, 35, was arrested for driving under the influence after he was seen snaking on the road.

July 8. Around 9:40 p.m., two cars collided on Kaminda Onima. One of the drivers a man, 44, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

July 3. Around 1:15 p.m. a collision took place on Kaya Bamba. One of the drivers, aged 30, was arrested for driving under the influence.

July 2. Around 3:10 p.m. a police patrol found a scooter driver who was driving in the wrong direction. The driver was arrested and his driving license was confiscated for driving under the influence of alcohol.

July 1. Around 1:20 a.m. a car collided with a lamppost on Hanchi Amboina. The driver, 38, has been detained for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Traffic

July 20. 60 vehicles were stopped and checked at Kaya Internashonal. 10 drivers received an official report. These were for driving without a valid driver's license and insurance. A driver also received a warning for transporting people in the cargo box.

July 19. On Kaya Grandi the driver of the scooter probably wanted to turn around, gave the scooter too much gas, and crashed into a wall. She was taken to hospital by ambulance.

July 16. A car and a scooter collided on Kaya Industria. The driver of the scooter was taken to hospital by ambulance. The driver of the car was fined because he did not have a valid driver's license or insurance. His car has been seized until he can present a driver's license and proof of insurance.

July 12. Two cars collided head-on near Plaza Fraternal di Tilburg. The driver of the car driving from the roundabout towards Kaya Korona stated that he suddenly saw a car driving towards him. The drivers of both vehicles were checked by paramedics at the scene. One driver received a report for not having a driver's license.

July 10. Around 7:30 a.m. an accident occurred on Kaminda Tra'i Montaña. The driver was trying to overtake two vehicles when one of the vehicles suddenly braked. When the driver wanted to deviate, her car ended upside down in the bushes. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

July 9. Around 9:20 p.m. a vehicle ended up in the bushes near Kaminda La Union. The driver was injured and was treated by paramedics.

July 8. Around 8 a.m. a pick-up and a scooter collided on Kaya Korona. The driver of the scooter was injured and was treated by paramedics. The driver of the scooter did not have a valid driver's license and insurance documents and was therefore ticketed.

July 7. Around 9 p.m., a hit & run took place on Kaya Bonaire. A black-painted Audi collided with a parked rental car and then drove on.

July 7. Around 5:20 p.m., two vehicles collided on Kaya Korona. One of the drivers could not show a valid driver's license and insurance documents and was therefore ticketed.

July 6. Around 6:50 p.m. a hit & run took place on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The driver of a pick-up collided with another vehicle and then drove on.

July 5 & 6. Wednesday morning a traffic controls were held at Kaya Industria and Kaya Internashonal. Seventeen cars and one scooter were checked. Three fines were issued for driving without: a valid driver's license (1), valid insurance (1) and a seatbelt (1). In the evening near Kaya Nikiboko South and Kaya Julio C. van der Ree, 52 vehicles were checked and 21 fines were issued for driving without: valid insurance documents (6); a valid driver's license (11); a seat belt (2); dipped lighting (1); and a license plate (1). In the afternoon hours July 6, at Kaya Korona 20 fines were issued for driving without: helmet (1); a seat belt (13); a valid driver's license



The police will strictly enforce Kaya Grandi's new traffic signs. It is prohibited to park outside the designated parking spaces on the side of the street where the sign is located. The space between the concrete balls on the side of the road is not a parking space.

(2); valid insurance (4). The fine for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

July 1. Around 3:20 p.m., a car heading toward Rincon hit a donkey that was crossing the street. The donkey ended up on the windshield of another car heading toward Playa. The driver of the second car was very shaken and was therefore treated by paramedics and then transported to hospital.

June 30-July 1. Seven drivers were ticketed: five for using a mobile phone, one for driving without a valid driver's license and insurance documents and one for driving without a valid driver's license.

July 1. In the evening, two cars collided on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. One driver was ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license and insurance documents.

June 30. a collision took place on Kaya Sabana in which the driver was ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license and insurance documents. In the afternoon, the

passenger of a car was ticketed for not wearing a seat belt.

Public Order

Parking Vehicles may not be parked on public roads for more than 2 times 24 hours. In addition, vehicles parked on the side of the road must not interfere with through traffic or impede access to any property. Parking fine can be up to \$85. If your vehicle is towed away, you must also pay the costs.

False emergency calls. KPCN asks parents and carers of small children to be alert if they let them play with mobile phones. Mobile phones without a SIM card can still call emergency numbers. With the summer holidays, the central control room is increasingly receiving calls from children playing with a mobile phone. The time our dispatchers spend trying to determine if the child is really in distress can mean that a person who is in danger or in urgent need of help cannot reach a dispatcher.

Subsidies available for slavery projects



(L-R) Jude de Wolff, Art & Culture representative of NGO Platform, and Marlies Vels, NGO Platform coordinator announce the project. Photo Julie Morgan

On July 20, Jude de Wolff, Art & Culture representative of NGO Platform, and Marlies Vels, NGO Platform coordinator, announced the project collaboration between NiNsee (National Institute of Dutch Slavery History and Heritage) and Bonaire's NGO Platform.

The NGO Platform has received \$25,000 to support foundations, associations and local individuals who create education and awareness projects on the subject of slavery.

Examples for the commemoration projects could be in art, culture, a short documentary, storytelling by the elderly, music, archived materials, genealogy, photographs, books and an archive dialogue or discussion for healing. The theme is "Di unda mi ta bin?" ("Where do I come from?").

Foundations and associations can receive up to \$2500, individuals and initiatives up to \$1,500. NiNsee is providing the funds. To request a project application email: info@ngobonaire.org; WhatsApp +599-777-2366 or download the application via NGO Bonaire.org.

The NGO Platform committee will assess the projects by September 15. The dates chosen to bracket the projects are symbolic. Projects will start on October 10 (10-10-10, when the Netherlands Antilles was officially dissolved) and end on Dec. 19, the date the Netherlands prime minister Rutte apologized for slavery.

Julie Morgan

Parrots and People

Cliffhanger

by “Mel” McCombie

You might think that the “Neotropics Regional Coordinator” job held by Jack Haines involved directing people to the beach. Jack, who works for the World Parrot Trust and is based here in Bonaire, actually works to save endangered species of parrots from Mexico to Argentina, using the tools of science, data management, and field-work. Jack is seconded to Echo and spends many hours volunteering to save the Lora, our endemic yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot. His most astonishing work here is not exactly in the field but in the air.

It is thought that Loras used to make their nests in the hollows of mature trees. After Europeans cut down the trees on Bonaire in the 1800s, the adaptable parrots found that holes in the sides of the cliffs of the northern half of Bonaire worked as well for nesting. Right now, Jack notes, of the roughly fifty nest sites regularly monitored by Echo, perhaps two are in trees, with the remainder in holes in the cliffs.

A lynchpin of Echo’s work is tracking nest sites every year during the Loras’ breeding season, May through September. If the nests are in holes in the sides of cliffs, then the only way to monitor them is by climbing the rocks and hanging off the cliffs. Combining science, strength, and skill, Jack leads a team of international volunteers who do exactly that.

Just finding the nests has been an arduous process. Until recently, the coordinates for Lora nests might have said “ten paces past the cactus, turn left and go up.” Jack and his colleagues have carefully gone through old coordinates—“like following a pirate’s treasure map,” he said—and have carefully pieced together a more accurate map with detailed GPS coordinates and photographs. Local people have helped, messaging Echo with details when they see nesting. If you see a Lora nest, give Echo a heads-up at +599 701 1188 by phone or WhatsApp.

Monitoring a nest in the side of a cliff brings an aerial component to field work. Jack explained that he and the field team work in pairs for safety. They use three natural anchors like trees and boulders, so if one fails, there are two more, a basic rule of rock climbing; then climbing ropes are carefully strung out against the sharp rocks. “If you get it wrong, there is a real chance at mortality,” Jack told me. The rocks are so sharp that they can easily cut the ropes, not to mention human flesh. He wraps rope with old tea towels where they brush against the rocks to prevent abrasions. Then it’s time to carefully



Volunteers at work for Echo. Steve photographs Claire checking a Lora nest.

lower oneself down to the nest.

Jack explained that once near the nest, the Lora parents will temporarily depart. They are not abandoning the chicks but seem to understand this brief intrusion will not harm them. Jack and his brave volunteers then weigh the chicks, check their crops (where food is stored before digestion). All the information is loaded into an app on a phone and goes into a database. The whole process takes little time.

“We check the nest sites every two weeks at first,” Jack told me. “After we know exactly how many nests have chicks, and we check on them every few days.” It’s the first year of life that is hardest for the chicks, who can be killed by predators when they are small. Currently, there are about sixteen active nests being monitored. Jack told me that two have been predated upon, one by rats, killing the chicks, and one by a nimble land crab.

But monitoring nests is perilous! My first fear would be falling, but Jack told me that bees are far

worse. A nest cavity makes a nice beehive as well. The standard honeybee sting hurts. But starting in the 1950s, honeybees from Africa were inadvertently released in Brazil and have bred with native honeybees. These so-called Africanized bees became known as “killer bees” because their stings have killed thousands of people, and they swarm aggressively. Yet they are virtually indistinguishable from the more docile honeybee—you don’t know that you’re in their presence until it’s too late. Megan Hill, Jack’s fiancée and employee of World Parrot Trust, told me that when Jack was attacked by bees in Costa Rica, he was violently ill, in anaphylactic shock, as she and her colleague raced to take him to the hospital. It turned out well for Jack, but he remains vigilant in protecting himself from bees when monitoring nests. He showed me a recent photograph after just one sting near his eye while monitoring a nest here, and noted that sadly, he has become more reactive after being stung so many times.

Though rats, cats, and crabs have attacked Lora nests, the most lethal predator is human. Jack told

me that another NGO in Venezuela reported all the chicks they monitored were poached for the illegal pet trade.

Jack lauds his team of volunteers, thanking “Claire, Paige, Steve, Orion, and Austin so much!” I am so impressed by the willingness of Echo’s intrepid volunteers for everything they do to help save our Loras, particularly their aerial work. Who knew that monitoring parrot nests on Bonaire was training for Cirque du Soleil?

By the way, as you read this, Jack and Megan are in Europe, and are marrying on September 16. We wish them the very best and welcome them back to Bonaire to carry on their good work on behalf of parrots!

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



Young people on Bonaire now have own hotline



Children and young people, aged 8 through 21, can now call Guana Chat, a free and telephone helpline where they can talk anonymously about questions, challenges and problems they have, or just chat with a friendly listener. The telephone helpline is manned by trained volunteers on Aruba, where the children’s helpline has been active for 25 years. The Aruban mentors speak four languages and are knowledgeable about education and traditions on Bonaire.

The free telephone number 918 can be reached daily between 2 and 6 p.m. The number currently works on Bonairean Digicel and Flow. Customers of other providers will be able to connect at a later date. The website <http://www.guanachat918.com> provides more information about the helpline and about the different topics that children and young people like to talk about.

DMR (Bonaire.nu)



Spotlight on LOCAL ARTISTS

Amor di Lora - 24 x 30 in

Judmar Emerenciana

@BonaireMarzworld
Facebook, Instagram

Teaming up to clean Bonaire and its seas

Bonaire is taking action to clean up the island with a new campaign called "On the way to Bonaire Clean Up Day."

The move to clean up the island is the work of OLB, Selibon NV and Fundashon Boneiru Limpi i Bunita. It was initiated on July 17 by giving free access to Bonaire's Landfill Lagun till September 30. The idea is to encourage people to use the landfill and not dump their waste in the munti, back roads or in nature.

Selibon is taking action to clean up the neighborhoods by removing branches and bushes that block roads; collect waste along the road and place large waste containers for residents to deposit their trash.

Tera Kora was the first neighborhood to receive these treatments beginning July 21 – July 24. Large trash bins have been placed in Tera Kora at Kaya Maranon, Kaya Kamari, Kaya Monweigneur Nieuwindt (Pal'I Tamarein), La Sonrisa Ball Park, Kaya Huallaga and Tera Kora Ranch.

For updates on the campaign visit Selibon NV on Facebook.

Photo OLB



Deputy Thielman walks among a mound of trash.



Bonaire divers showed their support of the island's underwater world by showing up in force for Dive Friend's Quarterly Cleanup on July 22. Seventy volunteer divers and off duty Dive Friends' staff scoured the ocean floor surrounding Karel's Beach Bar and recovered some 150 kilos (330 lbs) of discarded trash. The majority of the refuse was glass bottles and plastic coffee creamers most likely used by patrons of the bar. Perhaps that is why Karel's owner Karel Visser requested the site cleanup and sponsored the event by funding any operating costs and the traditional quarterly cleanup BBQ and raffle. Any remaining

monies were to be donated to Animal Shelter Bonaire.

The BBQ is a nice thank you to the volunteers and an opportunity to 'talk' diving and socialize while enjoying a good meal and some drinks. The raffle featured prizes: Tulip spa voucher; Gwen's Zest for Life yoga for two; Dive Friends retail shop items; Freediving introduction with Hugo; Two-tank boat dive from Dive Friends and dinner for two at Karel's Beach Bar.

The next quarterly cleanup will be in October. Story/photo Julie Morgan

Piss and Vinegar by Gijs Borsten

I. Last month I had the opportunity to take a short break, and treat myself to a trip to Motherland. I had decided that old friends needed company, conversation and a couple of beers, and that various tasks of a more or less formal nature had to be accomplished very urgently.

Besides, I was longing for a long stretch of black-velvety tarmac. The long months of stop-and-go traffic on Bonaire's pristine roadworks had depressed me severely, and, furthermore, the old Jensen, that had been sitting in a musty barn for almost a year, urgently needed some exercise. A fun way to clear your head. The unhurriedness of island life sometimes creeps under your skin. Deutschland, Hier Ich Komme!

So, I booked a flight to AMS.

After a couple of days, the flight was cancelled. No BON-AMS that day, they said. They re-booked me on the same flight a day earlier, extending my vacation by 24 hours, even assigning me the seat I originally ordered. Virtually all seats were taken, so their attempt to bunch up the passengers of two flights in one plane proved fruitful.

Travelling back to Bonaire, two weeks later, I found myself on a flight that, probably like the one they cancelled before, had plenty of empty seats, which caused a lot of running around by middle-section passengers trying to apprehend the tasty leftovers, right after take-off.

Arriving on Bonaire, about sixty of the approximately two hundred passengers got off, among them about ten residents. That puzzled me a bit: that's about the same number of stay-over tourists that got off of any old MD11 during its Bonaire layover, travelling from AMS to Guayaquil and Lima, in 2003, or 2005, or 2008.

What is happening here? Are we heading back in time?

II.

Back in the 2000s, life on the island was unhurried,

unspoiled and unforgettable (that's why I keep on whining about it). There were about 80,500 stay-over tourists in 2008, about 1,400 available rooms (RuG 2009), five or six serious local car rental companies, two boat rentals (for pleasure, not for fishing), and two scooter rentals.

Now, about fifteen years later, we've got about 3,500 hotel rooms, almost – I shit you not – 50 car rental facilities (worldwide operating US companies like Budget and Avis excluded), 15 boat rental companies (charters, captained and resort rental boats excluded) and about 12 scooter rentals.

The number of stayover tourists, in the meantime, has grown to about 175,000, slightly over twice the 2008 number, seriously lagging behind in growth of almost any tourist related facility on the island. Is this the free market we see at work? How many of the cunning entrepreneurs that invested their fortune in something touristy are going to survive?

III.

In the late 2000s, I was the (co-)owner of a pretty successful car rental facility. We owned 34 cars and trucks of different makes and purposes, all paid out of the company's revenues. They were almost all permanently rented, even during the 2009 financial crisis, often by repeaters. We had great tourists on the island in those days. They were well-to-do and interested.

Because rental cars were relatively scarce, we could, generally, charge a reasonable rate, considerably higher than today's prices, for mostly elderly cars. All companies did. Life was good. The major difference between then and now: every arriving tourist rented himself a car or truck, and scooters were virtually non-existent.

Today, every one of the seventy-something car-boat-scooter (or whatever they rent) renting companies charges, according to their websites, the lowest rates on the island (I have to figure out how that works), and boasts the superb newness of their fleet. They probably yield a turnover that is barely sufficient to pay their loan payments, if at all.

And still: almost every month a new star pops up on the rental firmament, a brand-new aspiring millionaire, having discovered a niche market that nobody ever no-

ticed before, in which he or she is prepared to invest his own or someone else's fortune, diluting the market some more. Maybe someone should call a halt to it.

IV.

The government allowing the influx of this class of naïve dreamers is very much complicit of the failing tourist market. (The verb 'allow' unjustly suggests an activity. There isn't any. Bonaire is governed by the 'idleness'-principle. The major part of Bonaire's government officials is present, just for receiving the attendance fee and driving around in a chilled D-licensed car. It's status. There's hardly any pro-active stance, except during elections. I'll get back to that later).

Because of the lax administrative attitude, we're heading towards a new social underclass: a proletariat solely consisting of failed New Makamba entrepreneurs. They will need support; they will need return tickets.

To them and their future followers: Listen, guys. Don't be naïve. Everything you can possibly think of has been tried before, and unless you are a specialist in a very specific field, you'll probably fail. If you might succeed, you won't get rich. Bonaire is a ruthlessly capitalist environment. It devours you alive, spits out your remains, and lets them rot.

We got plenty of rooms, rental cars, boats and scooters. The supply of B&B's, hairdressers, yoga- and mindfulness instructors, realtors, garages and second-hand car dealers, convenience stores and restaurants is ample as well. Don't do it.

Anyone has plans to start a well-priced landscaping service?



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.

Saving the Sabal Palm

“Saving the Sabal Palm is an ideal example of what Seacology represents. Being on Bonaire to see the difference made by fencing in the area near mature trees is very satisfying,” said Seacology director Duane Silverstein after the second day of Bonaire site inspections.

Seacology supplied the financial resources to fence three sides of the 35 acres where the world’s last remaining Sabal palms exist. The final fence was built with support from Cargill, the landowners of the neighboring salt flats.

This palm species is only found on Bonaire and there are just 23 in this area and perhaps four elsewhere on the island. That’s it—on the planet! Their small range coupled with the limited number of mature individuals has sadly earned its official IUCN Red List criteria rating of ‘Critically Endangered.’ Of the remaining palms, two are in their final natural life stage and are not expected to live much longer. The sabal palm is a slow grower, taking nearly 20 years to be considered mature, flower and reproduce. This is a dire situation that required quick action.

Bonaire resident and arborist Quirijn “Kiwi” Coolen and his company Bon Berde, were perfectly suited to manage the conservation project. Coolen and his team toiled for months to fence in the 35 acres, breaking numerous augers in the process. The Bon Berde team is monitoring the area and nurturing seedlings-to-saplings of the rare palm with a plan to transplant the trees once they are strong enough to endure Bonaire’s raw landscape—essentially a dry coral reef with just over 20 inches of annual rainfall.

Coolin said, “In an era of explosive technology, this project reminds us that age-old measures like installing a fence, can still be the most effective means



This mature Sabal palm is one of less than 30 in the world! Pictured left to right: Seacology representatives: Lynn Costenaro, Marisol Rueda Flores, Donald Arntz and Duane Silverstein. Project coordinators M. Patrick Griffith and Quirijn Coolen

of preventing the loss of an endemic species. Being able to show Seacology the difference with the growth of vegetation and new palm seedlings within the fenced-in-area compared with the barren land outside the fence are proof of the success of

this project.”

Seacology took the project another step to ensure one of the world’s rarest plants has a backup plan in the event of a catastrophe. There are 17 species of Sabal Palm with a wide range in warmer climates. Although

this palm was documented in 1979, Palm expert M. Patrick Griffith of the Montgomery Botanical Center in Coral Gables, Florida, was one of the scientists to recognize Sabal loughediana as a unique species. Similar to Curaçao’s Sabal antillensis,

Bonaire’s palm is slightly taller and capable of holding up to 35 leaves at its crown with spikier and thicker leaves and distinct trunk markings.

Griffith leads a propagation program in Florida and has more than 200 of these rare plants exhibiting daily growth.

“This palm is reasonably easy to grow in a controlled setting. Most seedlings get their start from wind dispersal but don’t survive long, as they are consumed early on. We now have a dedicated offsite genetic reserve to help conserve the species,” said Griffith.

Meanwhile, Elsmarie Buekenboom, with the support of STINAPA and 590 volunteers planted the 1,000th Sabal palm sapling on Klein Bonaire earlier this year.

What can you do to ensure the Sabal Palm project continues on a successful path? Adopt a palm from Tera Barra! Check out Seacology.org; this global non-profit foundation just reached a new milestone by supporting more than 400 projects in 68 nations.

*By Lynn Costenaro
Seacology Photos*



This 2-year old Sabal Palm has been propagated on Bonaire in idyllic conditions: regular water and fertilizer.

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DIVE #3 Nuts, Bolts and Bubbles of DCI Part 2: AGE

AGE (Arterial Gas Embolism) occurs when gas bubbles enter arterial circulation, travel through arteries and cause tissue damage by blocking blood flow at the small vessel level of a specific organ, usually the brain or spinal cord.

Rapid ascents contribute significantly to the risk of AGE. Other factors that may increase risk for DCI (Decompression Illness) and AGE are obesity, dehydration, heavy exercise, pulmonary disease, and Patent Foramen Ovale (25-30% of general population). We don't yet fully understand possible individual risk factors that contribute to DCI. Some divers get DCI more frequently than others despite following a safe dive profile.

If a diver ascends without exhaling, air trapped in the lungs expands (Boyle's Law) and may rupture lung tissue, the air sacks (alveoli) and blood vessels. This injury, called pulmonary barotrauma, involves release of gas bubbles into the vascular circulation of the lungs. Circulation distributes these bubbles to body tissues. Since the brain receives the highest proportion of blood flow, it is the main organ where bubbles may interrupt circulation reducing supply blood and oxygen to the brain. When the brain is deprived of circulation and oxygen, alterations in function of the brain can be experienced.

This circulation interruption of AGE is considered the more serious form of DCI. The diver may have made a panicked ascent or breath hold ascent. AGE can occur even if the ascent was completely normal. Pulmonary diseases such as obstructive lung disease and Patent Foramen Ovale increase the risk of AGE.

A diver may surface unconscious or lose consciousness within 10 minutes of surfacing. These cases are true medical emergencies and require immediate oxygen and

rapid evacuation to a treatment facility.

AGE may involve minor symptoms of neurological dysfunction, sensations of tingling or numbness, weakness without obvious paralysis, difficulty in thinking but no apparent confusion. In these cases, there is time for a more thorough evaluation by a diving medical specialist to rule out other causes.

Like DCS, mild symptoms of AGE may be due to causes other than diving, which can delay treatment. These causes include medication, alcohol, recreational drug use and pre-existing medical conditions. Symptoms may resolve spontaneously, and the diver may not seek treatment. The consequences of delay are similar to untreated DCS, residual brain or spinal cord damage.

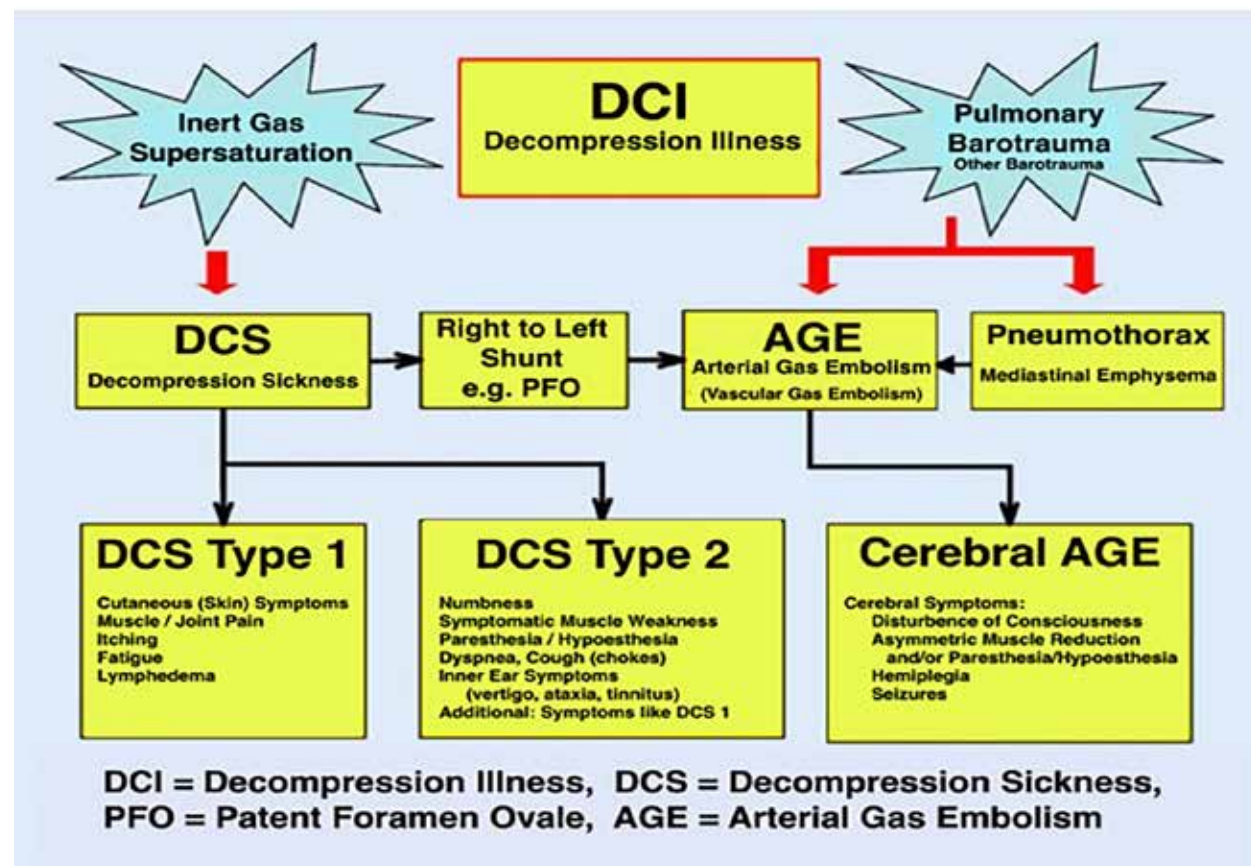
AGE Symptoms (typically apparent immediately at or after surfacing)

- Dizziness • Visual blurring • Decreased sensation • Chest pain • Disorientation • Bloody froth from mouth/nose • Paralysis/weakness • Convulsions • Unconsciousness • Cessation of breathing • Death

All symptoms of DCS or AGE should be taken seriously. The presence of DCS Type 2 (neurologic symptoms) and AGE are readily apparent to all involved, patient is in immediate need of Oxygen and medical evaluation by a dive medical doctor. Milder DCS Type 1 (pain, skin, lymph only) symptoms can be less obvious. Occasionally milder symptoms may be the first stage to developing a DCS Type 2. Dive medical doctors are always available on Bonaire. Emergency Department at Hospital San Francisco in Kralendijk is uniquely qualified to address concerns regarding suspected Decompression Injury and will refer you to a dive medical doctor for evaluation and treatment.



Dr. George Matook first visited Bonaire in 1979. Living here full time now, he has a practice in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine.



Creating optimal health by Irene da Cunda Costa

How to prevent an irrational fear from turning into an anxiety disorder

Anxiety is defined as tension, apprehension, or discomfort due to the anticipation of danger. While fear is a specific reaction to real danger, anxiety is disproportionate fear and sometimes for no specific reason. We all experience fear at some point in our lives and sometimes anxiety. The frequency and intensity will determine if it is a disorder. An anxiety disorder causes significant distress or impairment in the social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. When the amount of anxiety is such that it affects the quality of life of the individual, limiting his actions, the assistance of a health professional is necessary.

It is possible to avoid the development of an anxiety disorder if we identify early situations that cause irrational fears and avoid reinforcing them. Sometimes these situations bring secondary benefits, such as getting attention or avoiding a task, and thus reinforce themselves.

Anxiety has a cognitive component that involves thoughts or internal dialogues which are based on irrational thoughts or belief about the feared object or about oneself. For example, the fear of a harmless insect

translates into beliefs about impossible damage that the insect might cause.

Anxiety also has an organic component which translates into the activation of the sympathetic branch of the nervous system, with palpitations, tachycardia, sweating, tremors, a feeling of lack of air, pain in the thorax or abdomen, nausea and dizziness.

These three aspects - the internal dialogues, the organic symptoms and the so-called secondary benefits reinforce the avoidance of situations that generate anxiety. Early detection and action can prevent the development of an anxiety disorder.

To manage the cognitive component of anxiety it is necessary to build a case against the underlying irrational idea, the same way a lawyer does in court when he wants to defend his client by proving an accusation is false. In the specific situation of anxiety, it implies questioning the beliefs and looking for data from reality that demonstrate their falsehood.

To manage the organic component, it is necessary to learn and master breathing techniques that activate the parasympathetic branch of the nervous system inducing a relaxation state. The state of relaxation is incompatible with anxiety as it is impossible to be both relaxed and anxious. Breathing techniques can be used while gradually exposing to the feared situation. It is important to learn and practice breathing and relaxation techniques before attempting any kind of exposure. Breathing is a

function that is both voluntary and autonomous. This means that although we are always breathing, it is not necessary to think about it to do so, however we can voluntarily modify it. By introducing small changes in our breathing pattern we can modify other bodily functions, such as heart rate and blood pressure. How can we achieve this? Through a subtle, slow, abdominal breath and an exhalation that is slightly longer than the inhalation. The simple fact of bringing our attention to the breath without altering it often has a relaxing effect. If we manage to gradually extend the exhalation, the relaxing effect will be accentuated. It is important to master this technique before experiencing exposure to any anxiety provoking situation.

In the early stages of these fears, it is possible through identification of secondary benefits, debunking irrational beliefs and managing breathing techniques to avoid the development of phobias and other anxiety disorders. However, when faced with an installed disorder, the intervention of a health professional is essential.



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.

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

Check Out Those ... Sponges

When I was working for Dive Bonaire, we were looking forward to a visit from Skin Diver (the main U.S. dive magazine) editor/publisher Paul Tzimoulis and cover photographer and writer Geri Murphy. We wanted their trip to be great, of course, so there would be a wonderful article and a cover photo about Bonaire diving. I was making mental lists of where our most photogenic morays and filefish and frogfish and other unusual critters could be found.

Then Paul and Geri arrived, and they wanted to photograph ... sponges!

Since I hadn't paid much attention to sponges (up until then), I had no immediate site ideas, but that's when I realized Bonaire has amazing sponges everywhere. During this visit, we inaugurated the Over-Forty Purple Tube Sponge Club, and have been able to add at least two other types of sponges which are growing in formations with more than forty tubes.

Have you ever noticed a sponge formation with pieces of a similar sponge nearby? If not, you're not alone. Most of the time, here on Bonaire, if a piece of a sponge breaks off and makes continuous contact with a rock or other hard surface, that piece of sponge will attach to the surface and begin to grow.

Back in 1988, when a renovation was beginning at our North Pier, fifty of the two hundred pilings were scraped of growth to determine if they had structural damage. The bottom was littered with detached sponges and orange cup corals. Dives beneath the Pier were still permitted then, and I remembered something Cathy Church had once told me: if a sponge stayed in contact with an appropriate surface, it would attach to that surface. From 1989 to 1990 or so, in the Sponge Reattachment Project, we tied more than 600 unattached sponges



Photo Julie Morgan

to the denuded Pier pilings. Many of them are still thriving. (The orange cup corals can't reattach to anything, but we stuck them into tied up sponges when we could.)

The wind shifts we've had over the past few years have taken a toll on shallow-water growth such as that on the pilings of the piers. Many sponges were broken off and pushed by waves and currents into depressions in the bottom.

One thing sponges can't do is move, so when there's a pile of them all trying to filter oxygen and food from the same water, some of the sponges inevitably die.

Bonaire had a solution to that: the new pier at Karel's Beach Bar.

The government, and Karel's, have given permission for a Sponge Garden to be created on the new pier. Sponges must be "orphans," that is, detached from the reef when they're found, and brought

to the Garden without being taken out of the water. This requirement is what paces the Garden. I never realized how many broken sponge sections were already attached to something, until I tried to pick them up!

Still, more than sixty sponge formations have been tied onto several pilings in the last year or so. Many of the sponges are well-attached to their pilings, and are providing homes for redlipped blennies. I saw a juvenile French angelfish hanging around a sponge last week, and one young balloonfish tucked into a large formation.

Even though sponges are animals, Sponge Garden is somehow an appropriate description for the pilings there. Check them out for a basic sponge lesson.

Or, look at sponges on the reef.

Is there a curved shape cut out of a sponge tube? Look around for the sponge crab who's wearing it.

Is there a contrasting color on a sponge? It might be a frogfish; if it is, look around for another frogfish. It might also be a small sponge decorator crab. But don't forget that the frogfish and the crabs could be the same color as the sponge!

Nowhere but Bonaire are there so many sponges of different colors, type of formation, and species. If you do what Paul and Geri taught me all those years ago, and pay attention to them, your dives will be enriched.



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.

Bonchi Boneiru coffee beans Parfait

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis



300 Gr Bonchi Boneiru Coffee Beans
5 egg yolks
2 egg whites
100 grams of sugar
1 dl (deciliter) milk
400 gr whipped cream
20 g coffee liqueur, e.g. Tia Maria
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Grind the coffee bean in a mortar and pestle.

Put the milk in a pan and bring it to the boil and let the coffee beans steep in it for about 15 minutes, over a low heat.

Pour the milk into an iron basin, through a fine sieve and keep the coffee grounds.

Add the egg yolks, vanilla extract and the coffee liqueur to the milk and beat this lightly over a pan of gently boiling water, so that it becomes an airy mixture and cooked, about 80 degrees C so that the "stand" remains in it.

Allow this airy mixture to cool, stirring occasionally.

Beat the whipped cream with almost all of the sugar to a "yogurt thickness" and set aside to cool.

Beat the egg whites with the rest of the sugar until stiff.

Now fold all three components together and pour into your desired shape and place in the freezer until completely frozen.

Coffee sauce

Coffee grounds from the first brew
1 dl milk
0.5 dl whipped cream
50 grams of sugar
Custard powder

Bring the milk to the boil in a pan with the coffee

grounds from the first time and let it steep.

When there is enough coffee flavor in the milk, pour through a fine sieve and discard the coffee grounds.

Put the sugar in the pan with some water and let it come to a boil and let the water evaporate so that a beautiful golden brown caramel is created.

Pour the milk on top to stop the process, be careful not to splash, let the caramel dissolve in the milk and add the whipped cream, and let it boil for a while.

Dissolve some custard powder in some milk and add some to the caramel milk so that a smooth sauce is created, which thickens when it has cooled.

Serve the parfait on a plate and garnish with the caramel sauce, mocha beans and delicious whipped cream



Each month Chef Corjan Hoogerheide of Lekker Thuis will be sharing the recipe for one of his personal dishes created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients.

Bonchi Boneiru, the first and only fresh coffee roastery on the island is the focus ingredient for Chef Corjan's recipe this issue.

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

Marshe di Playa Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, next to Warehouse Supermarket.

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk): While we are still looking for a new permanent location, the Pakus is still OPEN but in a very downsized version at the old location on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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/terrarmuseumbonaire/>

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. After hours: +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)

Friday, July 28	Terramar News Café 6:30 - 8 p.m. How colonialism can be seen in our culture. Language: Papiamentu/ Dutch. RSVP +599 701 4700 terramar-museum@gmail.com
Saturday, July 29	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.
Tuesday, August 8	Molten Glass Workshop Olive Oil Bottles. Limit 8 people. Creating your very own glass art - from choosing your glass, to design, to fusing in the kiln. \$150 includes tools, materials, snacks, beverages, and your finished pieces. No experience is required. Sign up by sending an email moltenwolfglassinc@gmail.com

23 artifacts

Terramar Museum is planning several heritage events where focus groups of local Bonaireans will help identify 23 objects that connect the inhabitants of the island to their living heritage. The museum wants to link people's experiences and personal histories to the objects. The 23 artifacts will form a traveling collection that can be hosted by other organizations on the island. Utrecht University is helping with the project and the Cultural Participation Fund is supporting it. Individuals and organizations who would like to provide heritage input into the project are encouraged to contact Terramar Museum. DMR

Tentative cruise ship schedule				
DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. July 26	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Wed. August 9	MARDI GRAS	0700-1600	South	6631
Wed. August 16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION (LAUNCHING 2022)	0800-2200	South	5282
Wed. August 23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. August 24	CARNIVAL EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852

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.

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>

Cyclovia 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: 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. 7:30 p.m. July 24 - VIP diving; July 31 - Dive Friends Hamlet; August 7 - Divi Resort; August 14 - VIP diving; August 21 - Toucan at Plaza. 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.

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/
Saturday, July 29	Washikemba BEACH CLEAN UP of important sea turtle nesting site. 9 a.m. Bring drinking water or a reusable water bottle, wear sturdy shoes, apply sunscreen. We encourage the use of reusable bags for collecting debris, so if you have a mesh bag, please bring it. See Facebook: Beach clean-up at Washikemba
Sunday, Aug 13	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

WINTER SCHEDULE 2023 - 2024

MIA Miami	American Airlines	✈	3 DAYS	MON WED SAT	DEC - APRIL
ATL Atlanta	DELTA	✈	4 DAYS	MON TUE THU SAT	DEC - APRIL
IAH Houston	UNITED	✈	1 DAY	SAT	FULL YEAR
EWR Newark	UNITED	✈	1 DAY	SAT	DEC - APRIL
YYZ Toronto	WESTJET	✈	1 DAY	TUE	DEC - APRIL
AMS Amsterdam	KLM	✈	7 DAYS	DAILY	FULL YEAR
AMS Amsterdam	TUI	✈	5 DAYS	MON TUE WED FRI SAT	NOV - APRIL

Government dates

Do you want to apply for Dutch nationality? The IND will not process new applications June 30 to August 18. Contact via Nederlandschap@rijksdienstcn.com

Nominate someone as an Honorary Citizen by August 1. www.bonairegov.com/voorstel-ereburger.

Pensioners must update AOV file July - August. If you reside in the Caribbean Netherlands and collect a pension(AOV/AWW), you are asked to come to the RCN-unit Social Affairs and employment (SZW) office during July and August. Your ID card is sufficient for this check.

Drop by without an appointment Monday to Friday 8 a.m. 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Pensioners who are (physically) limited or unable to come to the office can contact SZW 715-8888 (Bonaire), email: pensioen@rijksdienstcn.com.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Making tea: Part 2

There are so many natural goodies growing our yards. Since I have some knowledge about plants, my tea super-market is my garden. Bonaire is full of fruit trees one can harvest for delicious, nutritious teas. Their endless supply of leaves gives us so many choices that I had to write two columns to name them.

Avocado leaves

As we know, avocado is a super food, so its leaves are super healthy as well in a tea. Here are all the goodies. It fights cold, flu, tooth ache, back pain, stomach aches, arthritis and diarrhea. It manages cholesterol and your heart beats.

Tamarind leaves

You know, as a kid ,I used to eat tamarind leaves. On my way to school, I picked some leaves from the trees along the road and just chewed on them. They are nice, sour and soft. Now that I know what kind of great stuff they contain, I know I must have grown up very healthy. The fruit has very high Vitamin C (nine times an orange) and a lot of fiber. Taken for flu, colds, inflammation, wounds,



Soursop

weakness, constipation or diarrhea, as a blood cleaner and to cool off the body; this is a very good leaf to use in tea.

Soursop leaves

Fresh soursop leaves can be used as tea. It's said that soursop has can stop the growth of cancer cells. It also helps back pain, eczema and rheumatism, diabetes, and it is very good for the immune system. It guarantees a good nights sleep.

Soursop leaves aid a quick recovery from diseases. On Bonaire many locals have this tree in their yard for health reasons and also because as a small tree it easily fits in many yards. Soursop leaves tea is helps fight high blood pressure but is not good for those who suffer from low blood pressure. But there is another way to use the leaves for enjoying a good nights rest. My grandma used to put some fresh leaves in her pillow and it supported her in a good night sleep.

Moringa leaves

A wonder tree. One can use everything from the moringa tree, leaves, bark, flowers and seeds. Did you know that tea from any part of this magic tree is good for more than 300 diseases in our body system?

I used to take several types of dry leaves when I traveled in order to continue in my healthcare. Moringa was one of them. It hardly weighs anything and because it covers so much incredible good stuff for our daily health I really like to have it with me. But it takes time to dry. It's a "wet "plant" so it gets rotten very fast if not dried well. Drying the leaves is almost the same process for all types of leaves from Bonaire's trees. Moringa leaves need more time to dry than the other ones, but the process is not that difference.

Drying the leaves

When picked, leave the leaves outside but out of the sun, on a carton or in an open container or box. Or dry the leaves in a room where wind comes through. Move your hands through the leaves every day for some weeks, so each leaf gets fresh air. Slowly it dries and after about a month it's dry enough to store in a closed container. Most plants keep their health value for about three months. So write the date on the containers or bags containing your own made dry tea.

I hope that by these articles you got a lot of information to start your own leaves tea corner in your kitchen and so you will enjoy the healthiest tea from your own garden. Start now, just do it.



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.

Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Accepting help

It has been a very busy week, with lots of different kinds of appointments.

Normally this should not cause problems. But when you are elderly, getting things done is a whole different ballgame. I have learned in the last couple of years that I need to surround myself with people who can help. I have never been someone to ask people for assistance, now I have learned the hard way.

When you know people or have friends who offer you help, accept it immediately. And what is even more important: when they are done helping you, thank them from the bottom of your heart.

I had an appointment in the hospital at the pain-clinic. I needed treatment and to be honest I needed a double treatment because the pain was beginning to be unbearable. When I suggested they give me two treatments that morning, it was impossible. I explained why I asked this question. As soon as I got home I received a call and was told that they could give me an earlier second treatment within a fortnight. I'm sure you understand how happy this made me feel.

In the middle of the week I had another appointment at the SVB in the Binnens-tad. All elderly were invited to come in with their sedula and register. Very good friends offered to drive me and help me get there. Once at the office, the parking lot was crowded and there was only one handicapped-parking spot. The only problem was that there was a car parked

right in front of that spot. One of my friends, an elderly person, had to get out of the car and ask one of the employees to come to the car to get me registered. I was helped in a very professional and friendly way by the employee and we were done in a jiffy. I thanked her from the bottom of my heart for her very personal assistance.

After that it was time to get to the telephone company. Although I asked them to come to my home to fix the phone problem, they insisted that I bring the equipment to their office. Again I was very grateful for the help of my friends. They did the job for me. Alas.... once at home my problem could not be fixed by me and I called and asked again for help. This took quite a while, and I was really frustrated. But just before I wrote these words I received a call and I was told they were on the way to come and help me to get my T.V. working again.

Now, the only thing is to get the police to stop people from parking just anywhere. I hope that people show more understanding for those who really need the handicapped parking spots. Empathy, patience and politeness brings you very far. And that goes for both sides of the story.



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.

Cadushy Distillery Introduces Captain Don's Limited Edition Whisky



The Cadushy Distillery is proud to announce the release of Captain Don's Limited Edition Whisky, a creation that pays homage to Captain Don Stewart, a legendary figure in Bonaire's history. On this occasion, Master Distiller Eric Gietman of The Cadushy Distillery (R) was presented with a plaque by Professor George Buckley of Harvard University (L), featuring a piece of the mast from Captain Don's sailboat, the Valerie Queen.

Captain Don Stewart, known as "Captain Don" to the people of Bonaire, was a visionary conservationist, entrepreneur, and pioneer of ecotourism. It is in recognition of Captain Don's invaluable con-

tributions that The Cadushy Distillery has crafted Captain Don's Limited Edition Whisky, a true embodiment of his adventurous spirit.

This exceptional whisky is a blend of carefully selected barrels, each meticulously aged and masterfully combined to create a harmonious and unique flavor profile. The whisky showcases a rich and complex character, with notes of tropical fruits, hints of spice, and a velvety smooth finish. A portion of the proceeds from every bottle sold will be donated to local organizations dedicated to preserving Bonaire's natural beauty for generations to come. Cadushy Press Release

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Shelter News

WOULD YOU LIKE A DOGGIE DAY DATE?

Do you like to take walks, go for a swim or want some company at home? Then think about coming by Animal Shelter Bonaire and taking a shelter dog (or two!) during the day to walk/swim, take it home to play, or just go for a ride! Our dogs love going on “day dates” and we will match you up with the one (or two) that suits you best. We will provide leashes, collars, water bowls and dog snacks to make it the perfect day out! It’s a great way to volunteer and help the Shelter at times that are convenient for your schedule. If you are interested in a doggie day date please visit the Shelter during opening hours to arrange a rendezvous. Mon.-Fri. 10-12:30 and 2-3:30, Sat. 10-2:30.

Story / photo Jane Disko



Pets of the Week



Harvey & Hunter

Meet Harvey and Hunter.

Two ordinary cats and two ordinary brothers.

They are castrated, tested NEG on FIV/I, vaccinated, dewormed and will be chipped before you come to pick them up (very ordinary).

Two ordinary playful boys of 10 months old that are looking for their forever home.

But so very special and sweet! Both very affectionate, easygoing and not pushy.

So ordinary but for me and all the volunteers that help us, actually, they are super special.

Photo/story Monique Degenaar

Dear All,

My name is Vivi. I’m around 5 years old and a very easy going lady,

I’ve been a shelter resident for almost 1 year.

My former owners did not want me anymore, why I don’t know, they just threw me over the shelter fence one night.

I have a very gentle and loving personality and I’m good with other dogs and I mean all of them. I do love people and the young ones are the best.

I do like attention! Cuddles and being brushed are pure heaven.

Even though I really like attention, I’m also very good on my own and then I will go for a long nice nap.

Are you the one that has a place in their heart and home for me? Then please come and visit me.

Photo/story:



Vivi

Sanne Attevelt

SAVE THIS DATE IN AUGUST!

August marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Animal Shelter Bonaire! Our future depends on teaching children the importance of caring for animals and all of nature. So this year’s birthday celebration will focus on activities, games and learning experiences for children 12 and under.

Mark your calendar for

**Sunday, August 27,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**for the 40th birthday
celebration of
Animal Shelter Bonaire.**

Stay tuned for details.

Venzie fruit boats are back but can’t sell at the dock

After a four year shutdown, the boats from Venezuela are again arriving on Bonaire loaded with fruits, vegetables, and building materials. But the goods they are carrying are being imported by local companies that have the necessary permits. The boats are not allowed to sell to retail purchasers.

Deputy Jolinda Craane said, “The boats provide a larger supply of vegetables, fruit and building materials. This ensures lower prices and contributes to the efforts made by the Executive Council to support consumer purchasing power.” Perhaps her prediction will prove correct.

In 2019, Venezuela closed its maritime border with Bonaire for political reasons, then Bonaire reciprocated when the corona pandemic arrived. The two countries have had to engage in extended discussions to get the traffic moving again. For instance, Bonaire had to agree to exempt the Venezuelan crew members from the \$75 visitor tax for a few hours while they unload. *DMR*

Getting close to installing a floating dock, *continued from page 4*

a ramp along the shoreline to a small cement pier to allow wheelchair access to the water. During this phase, they will also resurface the existing cement pier. Once the floating pier is installed the design and installation of turning boards and start blocks will begin to mirror as many aspects of a pool as possible.

The floating pier should arrive at the end of this month. Our plan (shipping and customs willing) is to install the pier from August 6 to 11. If there are delays

in the delivery, we will move the plan to the following week. I wish we could be more specific already, but a lot of things have to fall in place before we are certain. As soon as the details firm up, we will be sure to let you know.

The pier will arrive in 2 x 40’ containers and 1 x 20’ container which will be placed in the parking area behind the Barracuda container. We will work with a forklift to bring the sections of pier

from the container into the water and we will connect the puzzle pieces there. Each section is 2 meters x 3 meters. Once built, we will firm up the anchoring system to hold it tightly in place, and put accessories like benches, ladders and storage boxes.

**During the installation period
it will not be possible to train
in the area.**

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the assembly, so if you are free, we would love to hear from you! Please contact me at bonaire@budgetmarine.com or +599-786-3495 so that we can set out our planning. The more people we have, the faster we can put it all together.

Look forward to swimming with you in our new facility soon.

Women's Dive Day celebrated

Nine years ago PADI (Professional Association of Dive Instructors) began Women's Dive Day and for the last few years Dive Friends has celebrated the day with Bonaire's local women divers. This year some 20 women gathered at Dive Friends Hamlet to enjoy a yoga practice by Zest for Life, healthy smoothies and sandwiches. Some shopped for lionfish jewelry by Laura Aubac of Lionfish Creations and Sharking Daily artist Rosaly van Dansik. Dive Friends held a mini-tag sale with special deals on sports/ dive apparel including the colorful Spacefish Army line.

There was a raffle and a contest for the 'best dive outfit.' Contest winner Lauren Clement won a Spacefish Army item. The biggest prize of the day was a group dive by all the women into Bonaire's beautiful sea that was captured on camera by two of the women divers.

Women's Dive Day is celebrated worldwide (183 countries to date) to encourage more women to dive and explore the ocean. The latest statistics show there are 9 million divers worldwide with only 35% being women.

Story/photo Julie Morgan

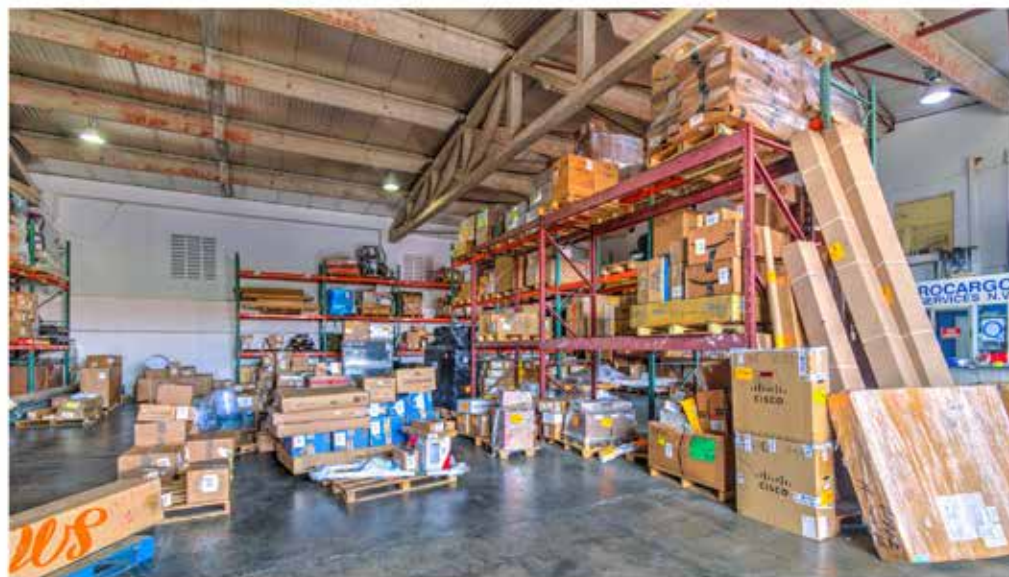


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