



Anchor at Hidden Beach just past Red Slave  
PHOTO - The Shipwreck Survey

# The Shipwreck Survey returns

*Studying shipwrecks can help us understand the past, connect us to our cultural heritage, and teach us lessons on how the environment and human error can impact each other. NOAA*

Archaeologist Dr. Ruud Stelten recently returned to Bonaire for three weeks with a field expedition team from The Shipwreck Survey to delve into the island’s historic underwater shipwrecks. The Shipwreck Survey is a kind of field school which initiates large scale archaeological investigations. Team participants engage in a full program of underwater research, data processing and artifact conservation. Stelten’s initial survey here was from 2015 – 2018 but was put on hold due to the pandemic.

In a presentation on August 10 at Bloo-zz resort, Stelten and his team revealed the findings of this trip. The 13-member team consisted of students, archaeologists, anthropologists and wreck enthusiasts. The goal is archaeological research to help educate and record historic sites and artifacts. Sites were selected that had known artifacts and historical maritime and archaeological significance from records or Stelten’s previous projects.

For three weeks the team was literally immersed underwater surveying five expedition sites on Bonaire. The three major sites were White Slave, Red Slave and Spelonk. In addition, they conduct-

ed a brief ROV ((Remotely Operated Vehicle) survey of the west side of Klein Bonaire and Small Wall for possible future exploration.

Each of the main sites was explored on three levels from just a few ft. to 400ft. (122 m) by snorkeling, diving and employing the use of an ROV. Photography with Go-Pros and SLR’s were used to record the shallower depths while the ROV did the work down deep. Non-invasive tools were used to measure the sites and found artifacts. The end result will be an underwater archaeological map of the sites.

**Red Slave**

Stelten, The Shipwreck Survey and Buddy Dive previously explored Red Slave in 2015 to 2018 from the shallows to the drop-off. The site is of great importance because the salt ships anchored at Red Slave. Snorkelers, divers and the ROV found numerous remains at all lev-

els of exploration to a depth of 30 – 100m (98 – 328 ft). The team found gears and wheels from a salt cart, ballast fields, an anchor ring, chains, various artifacts of metal and an old pier in the shallows. Historical records revealed the pier was used for loading salt onto the ships. The ROV recorded nine different anchors and an anchor chain extending from 40m – 117m (131 – 383ft) with an anchor at the end.

**White Slave**

This site was important as a major anchorage during the early salt days but has not been sufficiently surveyed. Historical records note multiple 19th century shipwrecks. The ROV found remains of the salt operations in depths from 30-100m (98- 328ft). Snorkelers found metal objects, wheels, axles, metal debris, rails and a very large chain. Divers and the ROV discovered two anchors which were measured with photogrammetry, a

3-D photography technique. Initial observations indicate the finds are from the 18th or early 19th century. Further shallow exploration was recommended south of the white obelisk.

**Spelonk – East Coast**

Stelten said, “The Spelunk wreck has been known to divers for a long time, but it wasn’t until 2018 that it was first archaeologically assessed when I and several technical divers from Buddy Dive had a look at it.”

The 45m (147.6ft) wreck is located at 22-26m (72-85ft). No one is really sure what the wreck is but it is thought to be pre-1909. The ship has a composite steel hull with sailing rigging. East Coast Divers provided support to dive the wreck to measure the anchors, size of the ship and do a full hull inspection. Photogrammetry took 1600 photos to produce a 3-D model of the ship.

Multiple considerations are in play regarding conservation: memorial factors, if salvage was done after the initial sinking and ownership rights. Researchers are delving into old records and possible eyewitness accounts. More diver inspection will be required as everyone wants to know what this wreck is.



Photogrammetry 3-D imagery of 1600 photos were combined to make this image of the Spelonk wreck exploration by The Shipwreck Survey.

**Shipwreck survey**  
*continued on page 6*



## First solar power brought into service



The first phase of the new solar park has been connected to the WEB grid and is supplying Bonaire with one megawatt of electricity. When completed, the solar park, the largest in the Caribbean Netherlands, will contain nearly 11,000 solar panels and be able to store enough power for 5,000 households.

Well hidden from the road just south of the Contour Global power plant near Karpata, the solar power site covers an area of 5.5 hectares.

The initial section of panels is being brought up to full capacity gradually. The output of the solar field has to be carefully

integrated with power from the wind farm and from diesel generators by the Grid Energy Management System (GEMS). The GEMS system will be closely monitored to ensure that the solar share of energy can be expanded. The plan is to increase the capacity step by step to a maximum of 6 megawatts.

The solar panel park is being funded by Contour Global and Bonaire Fuel Terminals (BBT), with WEB continuing as distributor. BBT's contribution is a 10 million euros subsidy from the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZK).

*DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad) Photo Caspar Douma*

## Island has new enforcement officer



The public entity Bonaire has appointed Marlon Richardson as Director of Supervision & Enforcement (S&E). Richardson, born on Bonaire, has worked for over 12 years as a Detective on the Police Force and over 22 years at MCB Bank on Bonaire. He is experienced in the areas of people management, change management, and enforcement. *DMR*

## BONHATA wins suit against OLB

BONHATA sued the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB), charging that the OLB had set an exorbitant and illegal wastewater levy for hotels and restaurants. In summary proceedings, a judge has agreed and postponed the implementation of the charge until October 1 of this year.

The OLB intended to charge hotels \$600 per year per room and restaurants \$600 per kitchen for discharging wastewater into the sewage system. BONHATA claimed the flat fee per room violated both extant law and the "polluter pays" principle. It said the amount of the levy should be determined by the composition and quantity of the discharged waste water. The court agreed. It also ordered the OLB to reimburse BONHATA for the costs of the proceedings. *DMR*

## Random military exercises on Bonaire

The 43rd army company, stationed on Curaçao, will deploy on Bonaire from August 22 to 29, 2023. They will get acquainted with the environment on Bonaire and the local authorities and emergency services. In addition to conducting military exercises, the troops will be involved in charity projects.

Their bivouac location and operating base will be the infrastructure and terrain of the scouting association Rincon, and they will train on other locations they are familiar with. The unit's commander, Captain Hans v/d Heuvel, and the HQ planner, Major Arthur Duursma, will also pay a courtesy visit to Acting Lieutenant Governor Nolly Oleana. *DMR*



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**Sunday, August 27**

**K-Walk Fundraiser**

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# Pieter de Groot - photographer and teacher



An important part of a photo class is a review and critique of the work after the dive. Pieter (R) and student Paul (L) assess the photos before the next dive. Photo Julie Morgan

Underwater photographer Pieter de Groot of Great Blue Photos is expanding. For some time, he has been the ‘go to’ guy for several Bonaire dive operations that wanted to provide one on one photo classes or photos for their diving guests. But now Pieter is offering a group photo class for locals.

Pieter said, “This is class for people that know how to dive, locals or pro divers that want to learn more about underwater photography after hours.”

The group class is for divers who have their own camera and want to learn more about how to get professional results with

either an SLR, mirrorless housed setup, point and shoot or even a housed iPhone. Divers who want to learn but haven’t made ‘the big camera purchase’ yet can take the class and perhaps gain insight into just what system is best for them.

Students will learn close focus wide angle (CFWA), strobe placement, how to get a black background, how to shoot sun balls and working and communicating with a dive model.

There is no diving included in the class but in water training is possible on request. The class is every Monday evening for five nights for \$150 per person.

Pieter, originally from the Netherlands, worked for Heineken brewery before moving to Curaçao 11 years ago to work as a dive instructor. He first became involved in underwater photography while working as a private dive guide for an Israeli photographer who not only gave him photo tips but a camera system in 2018. Pieter moved to Bonaire four and half years ago and three years ago established his photo company Great Blue Underwater Photography.

He offers photography, videos and photos at Wannadive, FPA, Dive Factory, Scuba Elite, Dive Friends and Scuba Do.

On photography, Pieter said, “You have

to get creative and see how far you can go. Practice good buoyancy, stay off the bottom and don’t touch anything. The better control you have of your buoyancy the better your photos will be.”

Pieter’s first group class is scheduled for Sept. 4 – Oct. 2 on Mondays from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at Dive Friends Yellow Submarine. Four to eight students are allowed to give the best knowledge experience possible. To join the class contact Pieter at: [info@GreatBlue.photos](mailto:info@GreatBlue.photos); Instagram or Facebook – Great Blue Bonaire or WhatsApp - +5999-667-9862.

*Julie Morgan*



Photo Pieter de Groot

## FOR SALE! Kaya Aurora 2 Cozy Family Home



- Location: Antriol
- Lot size : 393 m2 / 4230 sq. ft. lease land
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / laundry room

- Spacious open living/dining/kitchen
- Foundation for pool already in place
- Centrally located



**Asking price \$365,000 US Dollar**

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362  
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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.

## OLB says it will fix tourist tax someday

Has it been only a year since Bonaire's Visitor Entry Tax (VET) went into effect? We've heard so much about it. Except from the Government entity. Last week the OLB issued its first press release on the tax since December, when it announced the Island Council had failed to agree on the proposed revisions the governing coalition had promised in November. Last week's release assured Bonaireans that the OLB is continuing to work hard to come up with "a fair and well-thought-out tax system."

The OLB release was a response to the advocacy group Airport Tax Busters Bonaire (ATBB), which recently issued its own press release criticizing the OLB and drawing attention to the continuing issues surrounding the Visitor Entry Tax (VET). ATTB is represented by Harald Linkels, Lisandro Cicilia and Angelo Engelhart.

ATTB denounces especially the deci-

sion to charge visitors \$75 per entry instead of \$50 per year, as stipulated in the original well-thought-out plan that was proposed to the Island Council. ATTB rejects the argument that Bonaire has a new government that needs time to find its way. They say there are new faces in the government, but MPB and UPB still form the ruling coalition.

That coalition, ATTB points out, made two major, surprise amendments to the original plan simply by passing, on the spot, unexpected motions introduced at a council meeting. If making the mistake was that easy, correcting it should be too.

"The Government, with their earlier expressions has led residents to believe that adjustments to the Visitor Entry Tax could be expected on a relatively short term, due to the many unintended consequences. Failing to fulfill these expectations goes against the principles of Good Governance," the ATTB said.

*Don M. Ricks*

## WEB and solar

Water- en Energiebedrijf Bonaire N.V. (WEB) is to be congratulated for how well they have met demands of growing population on Bonaire. Significant growth has taken place since its establishment in 1963 when there were approximately 8,000 residents to current population estimated at 26,000. While visiting Bonaire in July of this year, noted with interest that new offices are being built on Kaya Djabao.

Hopefully WEB will take advantage of this opportunity to incorporate technologies available to them and the Bonairean population and provide a showcase of some sort. As impressive as it is that a solar park consisting of 10,816 solar panels is being constructed that will generate 10 megawatts and power approximately 5,000 households, there is no real explanation as to why solar panels have not been incorporated into individual households.

Though solar panels may not be as beneficial if extra production is not bought by WEB, there is little to no justification for not incorporating solar water heaters. Roof top solar water heaters are simple and collectively would contribute to energy savings. A recent article in FORBES

indicates investing in a solar water panel can pay for itself within 3 years.

US Dept. of Energy estimates 14-18% of utility bills are linked to producing hot water.

The Netherlands is known for their wind mills which date back to the 13th century. Bonaire, a Dutch island in the Caribbean with pretty steady trade wind lends itself well to new wind technologies. It would be timely for WEB to exhibit and promote small wind power generators.

Noted there are already some electric vehicles on Bonaire and Bonaire Reporter article in July indicated TUI would install 10 charging stations. With that in mind, now would be an appropriate time from WEB to incorporate electric vehicle chargers for their own future vehicles as well as for public. It may be opportune to include solar powered electric vehicle chargers in the parking area of WEB's new building.

Hope WEB showcases new technologies for island residents and visitors to adopt contributing to long term sustainability of Bonaire.

*Respectfully, Louis F. Dessau MBA*

## Likely Bonaire-to-Netherlands dope connection busted

The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar) arrested a 44-year-old man the morning of August 8 during a house search. The search also turned up a firearm, one kilo "tile" of hash, a 350 gram "pusher ball" of cocaine, and mobile telephones. The search was carried out under the supervision of the judge commissioner and with the help of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN).

The search followed a recent arrest at Bonaire International Airport for intended cocaine smuggling. A simultaneous search was carried out in the European Netherlands, where mobile phones were also seized. The Forensic Investigation Unit of KPCN will conduct a further investigation into the firearm and the narcotics. The telephones will be read by the KMar and/or the Digital Investigation Unit of KPCN. *DMR*

## Ask Bob

### Bonaire real estate advice



**We want to buy a property we will use for vacations and rent to tourists when we are not on the island. Can we make a yearly profit after expenses? Steve**

Hi Steve,

You didn't mention if you are paying cash or getting a mortgage, which will factor into any profit. If you pay cash, subtract the costs of property management, taxes, insurance, cleaning, utilities, laundry, pool, gardener or HOA costs from the rental amount to see what the return on your investment will be.

If you are paying with a mortgage, you will need to add that payment to the monthly expenses, which makes it more unlikely that you will see any net income after expenses. However, most buyers with Bonaire mortgages are happy to receive rental income that contributes to paying the mortgage and expenses.

You will also need to factor in the location and desirability of the property, how often you plan to use it yourself and whether you plan to use it in high or low season. I've seen properties with a 30% rental occupancy rate, and others over 70%. Your real estate agent can tell you if there is a rental history on the property and what sort of occupancy rate you can expect.

Thank you for asking,

*Bob Bartikoski,*

*Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner*

**If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at [info@bonairehomes.com](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com).**

**Bonaire: +599-717-7362.**

**Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362**

## Helen (Klemens) Fine (1928 - 2023)

Helen (Klemens) Fine died at The Huntington of Nashua, NH on August 14, 2023 surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 95. A Boston native, Helen was the daughter of the late Jacob (Jack) Klemens and Gertrude Klemens. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Alvin M. Fine and is survived by her devoted daughters Emily E. Fine of Townsend, Ma, and Roberta (Bobbi) F. Haney and husband Mark A. Haney of Nashua, NH; grandchildren Jessica H. Briand and husband Richard (Fran) F. Briand of Burlington, Vermont; Laurel P. Kratochvila and husband Roman Kratochvila of Berlin, Germany; Trevor M. Haney of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Brett C. Haney of Jacksonville, IL and Kevin J. Powers of Foxboro, MA. She was the sister of Michael Klemens and his wife, her dear sister-in-law Nancy of Tarzana, CA, and the sister of the late Adele Waldman. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Helen was a physical therapy graduate of Boston University, Sargent College, class of 1948. She began her career at Children's Hospital, Akron Ohio during a polio epidemic, and then worked at the Mass Hospital School for Crippled Children in Canton, Ma. While raising her girls, she built a private home care practice. The culmination of her career was the founding of the first rehabilitation department at Norwood Hospital, ultimately developing the department into a cardiac rehabilitation unit, stroke medicine unit, home care service as well as several satellite departments. During her long career, many staff and students became life-long friends.

After falling in love with the island



of Bonaire, Helen and Al built a house there to which they later retired, spending half of each year. Al was an avid scuba diver, and at age 50 Helen learned to dive, joining him in the sport. Helen and Al had many friends on Bonaire with whom they kept in close contact for many years.

Helen was an avid bridge player, reader, and "political junkie", boasting that she had never missed voting in an election. She was particularly interested in women's issues and once flew to Washington with daughter, Bobbi, to march for reproductive freedom.

After Al died, Helen relocated to The Huntington at Nashua, NH where she enjoyed a busy active life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Helen's memory to The Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery Alabama, 36104.



# POLICE REPORT

## Property Crime

**Aug. 16.** In the evening a light brown Secrid wallet with contents was taken from an unlocked car parked in Playa.

**Aug. 9/16.** Following an investigation into the theft of a bag at a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham, two suspects have been arrested. On August 9, a man, 20, was arrested and on August 16, a man, 21, was detained. Investigation in this case is ongoing.

**Aug. 16.** In the afternoon, the theft of a white Peugeot scooter, model V-Clic with registration number MF-3666, was reported. The scooter was parked in a parking lot at Kaya Bonaire and was stolen Saturday, August 5 between 3 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

## Arrests

**Aug. 17.** Around 7 p.m. the central control room received a report that two men were looking for trouble with each other in Bario Mamparia Kutu. When the patrol arrived, they found a man with a hoe in hand arguing with another man. The hoe was confiscated. A little later, the man, 33 was arrested on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago for making a death threat. The suspect's vehicle has been seized for further investigation.

**Aug. 16.** Around 11:30 a.m., an on-duty patrol at Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia noticed a marijuana-like odor coming from a car parked on the side of the road. When officers approached the driver, he stated that he had just finished smoking marijuana. During the search of the vehicle, a small amount of drug-like herbs, a scale and a drug processing item (grinder) were found and seized. The driver was also unable to show a valid driver's license and was issued a report for driving without a valid driver's license and for violating the BES Opium Act.

## Driving under the influence

**Aug. 14.** In the night a man, 35, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was stopped when he was riding a scooter in a prohibited direction.

Also on Monday night, another man, 31, was arrested

for driving under the influence. He was driving in a prohibited direction on Kaya Aruba when he was stopped.

**Aug. 12.** Around 2:30 a.m. a woman, 41, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and for failing to comply with police orders. The suspect was stopped when she showed reckless driving. She was asked several times to take a breathalyzer test, but did not cooperate and was aggressive towards the officers.

**Aug. 11.** Around 10 p.m. a vehicle drove into a deep hole on Kaya Nikiboko South and was stuck. The moment the police approached the driver, they smelled alcohol. Moreover, he also spoke with a double tongue. The man, 41, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The car was taken to the police station and his driver's license was confiscated.

## Traffic

**Aug. 16.** Around 12:30 p.m. near the roundabout on Kaya Internashonal the driver of a scooter stated that she entered the roundabout and for some reason lost power and then fell with the scooter into the side of the road. The driver suffered injuries and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

**Aug. 15.** Around 2 p.m. a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Grandi. The driver of the scooter suffered minor injuries and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

**Aug. 14.** Two cars collided on Kaya Gramel. The ambulance staff performed a medical check on the spot.

**Aug. 13.** At approximately 6 p.m. on Kaya Grandi a driver fell off his scooter and was injured. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Aug. 12.** Around 10 a.m. on Kaya Nikiboko South the driver of a car accelerated instead of braking. She lost control of the wheel drove into a traffic sign and then into a fence of a company near the roundabout 'Soernan di Rozendaal' in Playa. The driver and passenger were taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Aug. 11.** Two collisions took place on the Kaya Nikiboko South. Around 10 p.m. a pickup truck and a minibus collided head-on. The drivers of both vehicles were

taken to hospital by ambulance. There was extensive property damage to both vehicles.

## Traffic control

**Aug. 16.** Around 10 p.m. a vehicle with no tail light or brake light was stopped on Kaya Nikiboko South. The driver was ticketed because he was unable to show insurance documents.

Around 8:30 p.m. the driver of a scooter was stopped on Kaya Nikiboko North because he was driving on a public road without a license plate. The scooter was taken to the police station for safe-keeping until the owner can present valid insurance and a number plate.

At around 6:30 p.m. the driver of a quad bike on Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund stopped for driving without a helmet. The brake lights were also out of order. He was issued a ticket for both offences.

In the afternoon, the driver of a scooter on Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot was ticketed for driving without a helmet.

**Aug. 15.** In the night drivers of two scooters were ticketed for driving in a forbidden direction on Kaya Bonaire. One of the drivers was ticketed because she couldn't show any insurance documents. Furthermore, two drivers were ticketed for driving without a helmet, four drivers were ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license and two drivers were warned for driving with broken lights.

## Illegal person

**Aug. 16.** In the early evening hours a pick-up was stopped on Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia for broken brake lights. The driver received a report for this. During the check, the passenger could not show a valid ID. It turned out that he was on our island illegally. The suspect was taken to the police station where he was handed over to the Aliens Supervision Department of the KPCN. Meanwhile, the suspect has been evicted.

## FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

### Elderly complain they can't access government services

The ombudsman reports on its website that elderly people on the island complain they are being cut off from government services because they do not have email addresses or laptops. Another major complaint is that the OLB often fails to respond to requests and questions. *DMR*

### United adding two more flights from Newark

Beginning January 10 United Airlines will add two more round trip flights to Bonaire from New York/Newark (EWR). Passengers will be able to fly the route on Sunday and Wednesday, in addition to United's present Saturday service.

Booking is available now. *DMR*

### Mariadal piloting electronic prescriptions

As a pilot project, general practitioners at Bonaire Medical Center and Centro Medico Central are sending prescriptions to the pharmacy electronically instead of giving patients a written prescription to be hand carried there. One intention is to speed up the service. If the pharmacy receives a prescription in advance, it can process it and have it ready when the patient comes to collect it. Emergency prescriptions can still be brought to the pharmacy and filled immediately. The service is expected to be available soon to all GPs on Bonaire. *DMR*

### Bonaire girl youngest windsurfer ever to compete in PWA



Thirteen-year-old windsurfer Bobbi-Lynn de Jong of Bonaire competed in a Professional Windsurfers Association (PWA) slalom competition at Fuerteventura, Canary Islands. The youngest participant ever, she won a ninth place and is now one of the top ten female windsurfers in the world. No other Bonairean women have competed in such a competition in the last ten years. *DMR*



### Installation of LED lighting well under way

WEB has started installing led lighting at various sites around the island. They will provide better visibility and safety for pedestrians and motorists. So far the work is already competed or pending at, among others: Kaya International, Bario Nieuw Amsterdam, the airport entrance area, and Mamparia Kutu. *DMR*

### Bonaire's Urgent Care Clinic now can open patient files

Bonaire's Urgent Care Clinic (Huisartsenpost /GP Post) now has access to the electronic patient files. The clinic provides emergency care in the evening and on weekends when the General Practitioners offices are closed. Now electronic patient files are immediately available to any doctor when treating a patient on the island. *DMR*

### "Fever track" being built for motorcycles

A 400 meter race track is under construction, plus a platform for motorcycles to "fever" on. The track will allow two vehicles to race against each other. Terrence de Jongh of INDEBON says the project is intended to give motorcyclists an alternative to illegal racing, particularly on Kaya Statius van Eps. *DMR*



Shipwreck survey  
continued from page 1

Exploring these shipwrecks is wrought with challenges for The Shipwreck Survey including the costs to support the team. Other considerations are equipment, environmental conditions, weather, communication underwater and of course funding.

The Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency has provided some funding to other projects but not to this one. On occasion, the Survey has received other small grants but it isn't easy to find monetary support for underwater archaeology.

Science drives these explorations, but heritage and culture are major considerations. Historical documents reveal some 150 ships have sunk off Bonaire but that is just the number that has been recorded.

Stelten said, "We have shown a number of finds. One day in the field is weeks in the lab, with many weeks of analyzing and processing. We are trying to figure out the extent and size... which is just an initial step. We do non-invasive surveys with all kinds of considerations. We don't take anything."

The shipwreck survey discovered 13 historic anchors at the five different sites and found a record-breaking artifact at 403 ft.

Dr. Ruud Stelten lived in Bonaire from 2013 to 2018. During that time, he conducted various archaeological projects. He founded Terramar Museum in 2016 which he ran for a year. Stelten lived in St. Eustatius before and after his time on Bonaire and was affiliated with Leiden University where he did his Ph.D.

Stelten said, "I was allowed to live in the Caribbean, so I didn't have to relocate back to the Netherlands, which worked out great!"

He founded The Shipwreck Survey in 2017.

For more information about The Shipwreck Survey visit, <https://www.theshipwrecksurvey.com>.

Julie Morgan



In commemoration and tribute to the memorial year of the abolition of slavery in Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean on July 1, 1863, Terramar Museum has launched a yearlong exhibit called WE ARE.

The museum has designed a beautiful and educational presentation of art, photographs and videos. Visitors can immerse themselves in the history of slavery that has molded the people and culture of Bonaire. Videos are available of the first news Café on the Slavery Memorial year and King Willem Alexander's speech of apology and plea for forgiveness on July 1, 2023 for the Netherlands' role in the slave trade. Art and photographs are displayed with descriptions of their significance in regard to slave history. Books by local authors and the book *Antillen* by James A. Michener are available for visitors to take their time, sit, read and absorb the significance of this exhibit. Upstairs a long walkway is lined with oversized historical images and descriptions creating a dramatic impact.

Terramar explains, "Our goal is to create a platform for expression, learning and communication so that, in years to come the community and its leaders have the tools to do so in the future."

At the exhibit opening acting Lieut. Governor Nolly Oleana said, "it's very important that we can expose what has happened in 100 years. If you know the past it means you can prepare the future and you know your identity. One of the biggest problems is people on the island don't know their identity... It's very important to understand the past. Ask and explain – then it will be part of your own identity."



WE ARE features collections from Bonerian Salt, National Archief and Brabants Erfgoed, the work of artist/author Delno Tromp, Terramar Museum collection and several private collections.

Terramar Museum is open Mon to Sat 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Kaya Isla Riba 3; +599-701-4700.

Story/photos Julie Morgan

Coffie calls for more local people in key positions

Island Council member Daisy Coffie (party M21) believes that Bonaire's own people are less and less eligible for key positions in our community.

Daisy Coffie said, "We have nothing against the fact that when people are sought for certain positions, they are filled with people from abroad, because they are apparently better qualified. But it must be possible to appoint local people together with these people, so as a counterpart (people from the region who have more affinity with our island, our culture, our language, our people), so that they can develop and prepare to take over the position himself when the opportunity presents itself."

Coffie further argues: "If our people are not sufficiently qualified, we must be prepared to invest in them so that they can actually obtain the desired qualifications. We understand that there were, for example, 4 vacan-

cies at the SGB: financial administration, HRM, ICT and chairman of the Executive Board, where two vacancies have already been filled by European Dutch people. We believe that for the two positions still to be filled, it is appropriate to consider appointing local people and if no single local person is available who is suitably qualified for these positions, local looking for people and preparing them to take over the functions in due course."

Analyzing the current state of affairs, Coffie listed the following important points that should be taken into account when appointing local people:

1. Expertise alone is not the key to a successful career. Knowledge of our language, our culture, our island and our people is just as important or even more important than just expertise.
2. The European Dutchman who comes to Bonaire to work, needs almost 3 years to integrate and to master our culture and our system.
3. Advantages of appointing our own people in key positions include: communication in our own language, continuity, knowledge remains on Bonaire, savings on relocation costs, a local person can start immediately

and already has a good relationship with society, our culture and our language.

4. The approach to the inhabitants who only speak Papiamentu and Spanish is also much easier. In the case of the SGB (and other schools): our students already have to deal with too many barriers, especially the language barrier. There is no point in putting up any more barriers for them.

Finally, Coffie concludes: "There must be an active policy to get our own people into key positions in our society. We believe that the SGB can set an example at this point: if there are local applications for the positions that are still open, it is appropriate to make an effort, taking into account the above points, to place these positions in to be filled by local people."



# Stan Waterman 1923-2023

## Remembering Stan by Dee Scarr

American underwater filmmaker and writer, Stanton Arthur Waterman, died on August 10, 2023, at the age of 100. He created two films set on Bonaire: *There's an Eel in My B.C.* (1981), and *The Moray Wheels*, about the adventures of a group of wheelchair-bound divers at Captain Don's Habitat. Stan visited Bonaire as an honored guest and judge for the Video ShootOut in 1994. He was also with the group who placed the memorial on Captain Don's Reef, joining Jack Chalk, Bruce Bowker and other Captain Don fans.

Waterman's career gives us a one-person look into diving history. He bought a ready-made dive mask in the 1930's, but he had to make his own camera housings and other equipment. His passion for underwater film making eventually took Stan's entire family – Stan, his wife, two sons, and one daughter – to Tahiti for a year. His big break came with National Geographic's interest in the film he made of their lives in Tahiti (1965).

Back then, there were no cable TV shows showing divers with sharks. (There was no cable TV at all.) *Blue Water, White Death* (1971) was the first major film about great white sharks. Waterman was one of its underwater filmmakers, all of whom had actually made a pact: if any shark attack took place on anyone (including themselves), they would continue filming.

Luckily the situation never arose.

After his *Blue Water, White Death* experiences, Waterman became a hugely popular figure at dive symposia, both as MC and as a presenter. He'd create one or more of his own films each year, and present them at dive shows, adding personal anecdotes about the shoots for the audience's entertainment. Stan's sense of humor was incorporated in the titles of some of his films, too, including his first Bonaire film, *There's an Eel in My B.C.*, and a luxurious Australian liveaboard experience entitled *Roughing It in the Coral Sea*.

Even in the 1970's and 1980's, though, there were other underwater filmmakers, even some who were funny. Waterman had two additional characteristics that no one else had. The first was his ability (and desire) to remember and use quotations. Remember, this was decades before mo-



**Stan brought a rebreather on one of his first Bonaire trips, shown here, but he never brought it back. "The fish on Bonaire aren't bothered by bubbles," he explained, "so a rebreather isn't necessary."** Photo Dee Scarr

bile phones, and even before the existence of portable tape decks. Waterman would write out quotations he wanted to memorize, presumably in large letters (although there were no Sharpies then, either), and sneak peeks at them while he was driving.

The quotations were enhanced by Waterman's second unique characteristic: his voice. David Attenborough is good, but Stan was ... reeeally good. After Waterman's death, George Buckley mentioned the quotation Stan used in a film about whales. The words themselves are amazing, but no one who has ever heard Stan Waterman utter the

words is likely to have forgotten that experience. Stan was often asked, when conversation slowed or when his films were remembered, to repeat this quotation. (Some people have bar tricks, but I'll bet Waterman was the only one who had a bar quotation.)

Extra space here, for you to clear your mind and take a deep breath...

*We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate for having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein do we err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with the extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear.*

*They are not brethren, they are not underlings: they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth.*

*The Outermost House, by Henry Beston*

You can read details about Stan's accomplishments online, in Wikipedia and about a million other sites. Another place to search with great results is YouTube (but remember he's not "Stan the Water Man" or the basketball coach). Some of his films are available online through the Historical Diving Society, which is in the process of digitizing the rest of them, including *There's an Eel in My B.C.* and *The Moray Wheels*.

Here on Bonaire, though, you also have the option of hearing Waterman stories from the divemasters and others whom he was lucky enough to meet.

A man who made amazing films. A man with humor. Who used quotations. Who had a fabulous voice.

We've lost so much more than a filmmaker.

*Dee Scarr*

## Stan Waterman at 100 years by George Buckley

Born in April of 1923, Stan Waterman has joined the pioneers and legends of diving who have gone before us. He studied English at Dartmouth College with Poet Robert Frost.

His son Gar told me tonight that the Boston Sea Rovers were a beloved part of his diving world.

As Stan reminded me in our long chat last summer, he always called the Boston Sea Rovers his only dive club. He trusted our audiences with many premiers that filled John Hancock Hall year after year to hear his dulcet descriptions of yet another subsea adventure and captivating destination, often attracting standing room only crowds of some 1200 divers and ocean enthusiasts. He was a Boston Sea Rover for over 50 years! and was their DIVER OF THE YEAR TWICE! ...in 1967 and 1989! He pioneered the use of Henry Beston's famous quote about animals from his book 'The Outermost House' about a year spent in a dune shack on the Great Beach, Nauset, in the 1920's. His film about a year with his family diving and filming in Tahiti in the 1960's introduced Stan to the world when National Geographic aired it as a television special. Stan was a producer and cinematographer on Peter Gimbel's spectacular 'Blue Water White Death'. He won five EMMY Awards in a long underwater career.

Stan very much enjoyed his visits to Boston where high adventure often ensued with a host of 'Rovers having varying roles large and small in the endeavors and

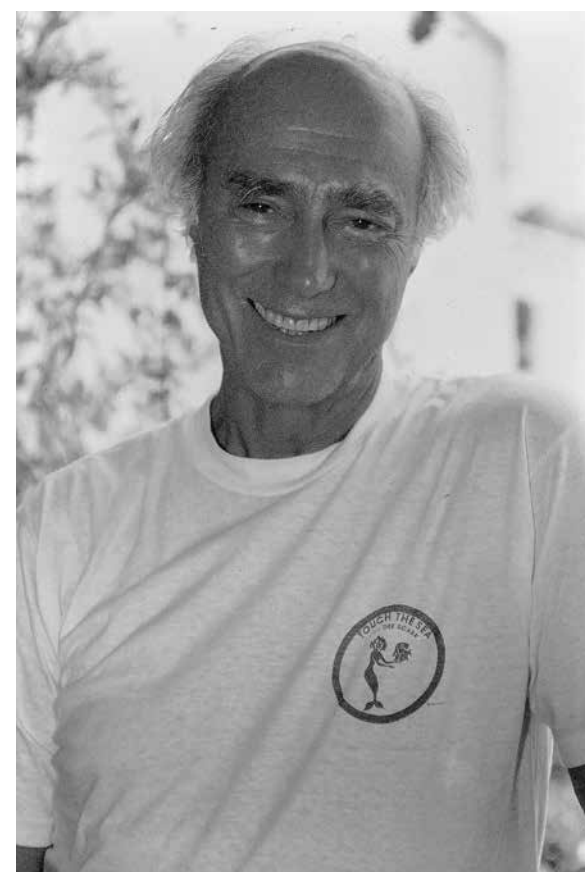
high jinks that often continued on Sunday at Frank Scallio's place ... (we were a one day show for our first few decades). The giant lobster that walked across the Hancock stage was eaten in a Sunday feast. The infamous 'chair with a middle finger' was lost in a Maine fire but lived on in Stan's book 'SALT'.

He was a legendary film maker, raconteur, story teller, friend to divers, and the dive industry at large, spreading the word about dive destinations the world over and introducing divers new and old to adventure and discovery.

A heart crew helped Captain Don Stewart build the 'highway to the sea' at Habitat in Bonaire so that Rusty Murrey's 'MOREY WHEELS' handicapped divers group from Boston could visit and Stan make a film about them that premiered at the BSR.

I also helped cause what dear Ziggy called 'mayhem at my show', when I brought Skull and Cross Bones eye patches that Val had found at Target to a Beneath the Sea reception and had David Doubilet (with his Coon skin Cap), Genie Clark and Sylvia Earle wearing them with Stan .... and a hoard of people wanting pictures with them.

I was one of the then younger Rover crew that used to pick Stan up at Logan and there are many stories about those often hours long journeys in horrendous Friday afternoon Boston traffic.... and some fun stories about a very snowy Clinic or two .... *Salud, George Buckley*



Stan at the 1994 video challenge. Photo by Dee Scarr



# Parrots and People

## Parrot Body Language

by “Mel” McCombie

When I meet a parrot of any species, I close my eyes, bow a little, and lift up my arms as if I were lifting my wings. It looks really silly, but parrots recognize that I am greeting them in Parrot. Why do I do this (besides my pleasure in being silly)?

Humans have eyes on the front of their faces. Animals with eyes facing forward are predators: their eyes can perceive depth well, which helps in snatching up prey. Think of wolves, cats, and owls: all have forward-facing eyes. Although we humans are loathe to think of ourselves as predators, the position of our eyes marks us as such. Parrots have eyes on either side of their heads. This gives them almost 360 degrees of vision, allowing them to see potential threats easily. So, I mask my identity as a predator when I close my eyes! It just seems polite to signal to a parrot that I am not there to hunt them.

But what about my arms? Parrots greet each other with their version of a wave “hello” by lifting their wings. Sometimes the lift is like a big shrug, sometimes one wing and then the other, and sometimes it is a full display that includes wing lifts and outstretched feet. I’ve found that parrots recognize my action as a greeting. I’ve gone to pet stores and stood in front of a display of cockatiels or lovebirds, closed my eyes, and lifted my “wings”—and have been rewarded with wing lifts in response! When I greet Echo’s ambassador parrots, I do the same thing. Baby, the green-winged macaw at Echo, will lift both of her wings in a full display!

Another politeness is more intimate. Bonded parrots often affirm their bonds by mimicking feeding each other, just as parrot parents do with chicks. My parrot greeting often includes opening and closing my mouth, my approximation of their feeding gesture. It often elicits a response and helps to signal to the parrot that I am not a predator, but a wannabe flock mate.



Just as dogs wag their tails, parrots do as well. A shake of the tail means “happy to see you.” Feathers can tell us a lot as well. If a parrot is contented and feels safe, its feathers will be soft and fluffy. The tighter the feathers to the body, the more anxious the parrot. Species with crests, like cockatiels and cockatoos, raise and lower their crests to indicate interest, excitement, or concern. And when a parrot is really scared, it will hold its feathers super tight to the body and make itself tall. I call it “scared thin.”

When my cockatiel Dickens was really contented, he would draw up one foot, half-close his eyes, and make a grinding sound. A grinding sound signals contentment? It’s the sound a parrot makes when it grinds up the food stored in its crop (what we call a gizzard in a chicken), and it only happens when a parrot feels safe. Conversely, when Dick-

ens was angry with me, he would spin around and refuse to make eye contact. I called it “talk to the tail.”

This is the tip of the parrot body language iceberg, but next time you meet a parrot, like Echo’s ambassadors, try greeting them with wing lifts. This brings my wing lifts to you!



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

## Lionfish, chocolates and queens - oh my



JC & Friends

Tourism Corporation Bonaire’s (TCB) Taste of Bonaire attracted a huge crowd on August 12 to enjoy not only the great drink and food samplings of the island but a long list of salutes to some amazing youth organizations.

Bonaire’s favorite food goodies were available along with two new food booths one featuring the invasive lionfish and the other homemade chocolates. Private Divers, who hold a monthly group lionfish hunt, and private chef

Robert Reindsen of Chefs on Tour teamed up to serve the perfect ‘tastes’ of lionfish ceviche, mini pizza and soup. While enjoying the lionfish specialties, guests could shop for jewelry from Laura of Lionfish Creations.

Chocolates of Bonaire handmade by Jeroen van der Steen was a new booth featuring jewel-colored chocolates, bonbons, truffles and brittles. On the stage guests were entertained by krio-yo music artists JC & Friends

and a dance by The Flash Dancers. TCB honored Special Olympics athletes, Arte di Palabra winners and U8 Pony League baseball players with medals and gifts.

It was a night for royalty with Miss Preteen and Miss Preteen petite Hispano-america International acknowledged. The reigning Miss Teen Bonaire, Nicole Cardenas, was introduced as she will represent Bonaire at Miss Teen World

2023 in September. Miss Bonaire, Ruby Pouchet, and Miss Tourism Bonaire, Caroline Poras, presented gifts and medals and the candidates for the upcoming Miss Teen pageant on October 7 were introduced. Angelo Domacasse represented TCB and Charlton Thomas was the MC. The next Taste of Bonaire is September 30.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Taste of Bonaire introduced Miss Teen candidates from Bonaire’s neighborhoods who will compete for the title on October 7. L-R: Andrea Francisca, Rincon; Natasha De Palm, Antriol; Anyibel Mercera, Nikiboko; Khyshiany Celestina, Nort Salina, Sienna Finies, Kralendijk and Myangelica Gustowski, Playa Pabou.

Looking for a night out? See Foodies Guide, page 11.



# A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

An aros bruha

My column this issue is “aros bruha” or a mixed pot. Because there are so many short stories I want to tell you and I couldn’t make a choice so it will be a bit of everything.

**Marigolds.** I’m beginning with a plant from the genus *Tagetes* or several species of plants called marigold. Other people may know it as *Afrikaantje*. This plant is native to the Caribbean and South America and I see it in Bonaire sometimes. When you read its story, you might want it in your garden immediately. What’s so great about it?

1 Because of its strong smell it keeps fungi, white fly, mosquitos, ants and bugs away and also rats and maybe even iguanas. I’m not so sure about iguanas, but it’s worth trying. By the way, other plants that keep bugs and so on away are calendula, chives and lavender.

2 The plants attract bees, butterflies, bumblebees and other useful pollinators which will visit your garden a lot because of its flowers. And maybe you’ll be lucky and get honey from growing these flowers.

3 Another interesting fact is that it’s a great green manure. Its flowers make a lot of useful nutrients. After flowering, one can add them immediately into the soil as manure. They will compost and



Marigolds. Photo Elissey Kostsov

their minerals and nutrients will be released into the soil.

These plants are annuals. After sowing they pop up between one or two weeks. They need light, water and a cool place. They love loose sand in which their roots can easily grow at the surface and their seeds are light and easily spread by wind and rainwater. The plants need little maintenance. When you cut the old flowers away the plant will produce more stems and more flowers.

There are three types of *Tagetes*. 1. *Tagetes erecta* which means stand straight up; it grows to about 90 cm and has small flowers. 2. *Tagetes patula* grows to about 60 cm and has big flowers. 3. *Patula nana* grows to about 40 cm, spreads wide and has a lot of flowers. There are a range of

nuances in the color from white yellow to reddish, dark orange to brown.

**Mangos.** For the first time my mango tree was really full and produced a lot of mangoes. They were the sweetest mangos and I used them for all kinds of cuisine such as sweet chutney, jam, juices, cooking and salads. I even used the green ones which the birds knocked off for use in hot chutneys. I wonder why we don’t use more mangos from Bonaire. I see them under the trees, rotting and useless; it is such a waste. (This applies to other fruits too.)

**Cassavas.** A year ago one of my friends visited me and I gave her a few cassava (yuca) cuttings to plant. She was not ex-

pecting to be successful and I really had to convince her to give it a try and she did.

About nine months later she had her first harvest. And I tell you what, she was totally impressed by the amount of cassava she pulled out of the soil. I was very happy as well and I now have one more garden friend. She will always have food because yuca grows so easily in every soil, is a sun lover and does not need much water. Iguanas don’t eat it, birds can not get to it and it does not become a big tree. It only needs a small space in the soil to let its roots get nice and big and it’s a good, healthy food, enough for a whole family. Why don’t we have more yuca on Bonaire?

Well, if you want to let this miracle happen to you as well, start planting yuca too. Just do it, start with it 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.*

# Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Realities

I.

The fact that dedicated journalism, using facts, data, numbers, as a source, is virtually powerless compared to the alternative reality created by the socials, is again confirmed by a number of brand-new entrepreneurs rattling at the gates of Bonaire’s commercial liveliness. Since July, 26, the moment I begged Makambaworld to cool down starting new businesses a bit, two new car rental companies, two new realtors and an undisclosed number of institutions in the catering business have been lured to the island. ‘Come to Bonaire! It’s great out here! You can do whatever you want, and it’s soooo cool!’

No, it isn’t. It’s hot.

Most of the new businesses operate in the tourism branch, a market, volatile like the plague.

Europe has seen the wettest July in the history of mankind, the Motherland’s last-minute trips to Southern Europe are selling by the hundreds of thousands, and, simultaneously, tourism on Bonaire is still a shrinking market.

So, to all the dreamers: No. You won’t get rich quick. Come to the island if you want to and enjoy the atmosphere, but please, please, don’t start a business of the sort we’re already drowning in! It’ll kill you.

II.

I discovered, in the process, an entity on Bonaire that is equally hard headed as the species ‘Makamba Nobo’. TCB, in a press release on August 7, again, reported an 8% growth compared to, again, 2019. They, again, avoided to compare today’s numbers to the 2022 data (-/- 0,25%. It’s a tiny decrease. Why not name it?), and used the 2019 numbers as a cover-up to prevent us from understanding what’s happening.

But we do so anyway.

Besides, TCB had some more unsettling news that they didn’t see themselves, or didn’t mention: Boasting a growing number of first timers, they failed to notice that the number of repeaters is shrinking.

Those data mean that a growing number of stayovers, having visited Bonaire once, don’t come back again. Apparently, the gap between their expectations, fueled by what they found on Bonaire’s tourism websites, and what they experienced being here, is too large.

So, TCB: Find out what makes them stay away! Try to close the gap, adjust either side of the spectrum. It’s your fricking job! These people pay real money for their trips!

Again: Tourism isn’t a growing market on the island. Don’t they think we don’t see the empty resorts and restaurants, and the hundreds of idle rental cars?

When even the weeks of incessant rain in Northern Europe aren’t enough to encourage people to book a last-minute trip and spend some time on an island ‘where everybody speaks Dutch and the sun always shines’, there’s something wrong.

Tourism on Bonaire is shrinking. Learn to live with it. Better still: plan a shrinking market. If you do, you won’t be surprised by it, and you won’t lose face.

III.

Last week NOS.nl reported on measures curbing the pollution caused by cruise ships by the Rotterdam city council. The growing number of cruise ships visiting Rotterdam Harbor – from 18 calls in 2009 to 111 in 2023 – are all emitting sulphur, carbon dioxide and fine particles, posing a health hazard to residents living in the vicinity of the harbor.

According to Eke Eijgelaar, expert in sustainable tourism at Breda’s Hogeschool, cruise tourism is one of the least sustainable ways of spending your vacation, mainly because the vessels burn incredible amounts of fossil fuel.

Comparing the climate footprint of a cruise and a vacation by plane, Eijgelaar says, the average seven days

cruise produces about 1200 kilos of carbon dioxide (not counting the emissions of the trip by plane to the ship). A comparable holiday by plane produces 840 kilos.

According to research institute CE Delft, the average cruise ship burns 1.9 tons of fuel per hour, producing 5.8 tons of carbon dioxide. A passenger car needs 27 full tanks of gas to reach that amount, or about 24,450 kms.

Sulphur and fine particles, the most polluting agents affecting people living in the direct surroundings of the docks, are gradually diminishing. ‘The cruise industry has a strong lobby, that has for a long period of time resisted the tightening of emission limits. The companies try to find the cheapest possible solutions to deal with limiting legislation.’

A solution that ends the permanently running generators to provide for the necessary on-board electricity is shore based power, available in Rotterdam’s cruise dock starting 2024. ‘More than 90% of the cruise ships docking in that year can be connected to shore power. Not all of them.’

Cruise ships that cannot be connected to the municipal power grid will, starting 2024, no longer be allowed to dock.

I wonder when, if ever, Bonaire will have the same perseverance in developing and enforcing rules that ensure at least some compliance with the ‘Blue Destination’ principles.

The new island regime doesn’t give rise to optimism.



*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.*



Pastechi filled with smoked chicken & goat cheese

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide,  
Lekker Thuis



**The Filling:** 100 gr smoked chicken breast (Kiptukkie) • 50 gr soft goat cheese • 40 g raisins • 20 g red onion, chopped • 20 g leek, in fine strips • 1 garlic clove, minced • 2 sprigs of thyme, zipped and chopped • Bonaire sea salt • Pinch of cayenne pepper

**Dough:** 140 g flour • 5 g baking powder • 50 g Greek yogurt • 25 g butter • 10 grams of sugar • 5 g salt • 1/2 egg


Put all the dough ingredients in the food processor and knead a nice smooth dough with the dough hook, let it rest in the fridge in plastic for 1 hour.

Cut the smoked chicken fillet into small cubes. Warm the sliced onion, thyme, leek and garlic in a pan in some oil.

Mix this together with the soft goat cheese with the chicken and season with Bonaire sea salt and some cayenne pepper to your own taste.

Roll out the dough as thinly as possible and place on the pastechi mold (9cm). Place a spoonful of filling on it and fold, remove the excess dough (you can still use it.)

Fry the pastechi at 180 degrees for about 3 minutes.



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

Spotlight on LOCAL ARTISTS



Delno "Denchi" Tromp  
"Nos lo no wordu ignora mas"  
(Sold)  
[delno33@yahoo.com](mailto:delno33@yahoo.com)

A beautiful wall for Bruce



Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn has a beautiful new colorful wall next to the pool thanks to former instructor and Colombian artist Maria Clara Arboleda. Maria worked for the late Bruce Bowker from 2015 -17 and wanted to show her appreciation. Pictured are Chris Dyer, Henry, Lynne Culbreth, Coco, Brandon Small and Kristi Malsam. To see more of Maria's art, visit her Facebook page Maria Clara Arboleda. Photo Julie Morgan



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# Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

## The Patch Project

Back when I was a divemaster for Dive Bonaire, there was one day when the reef we had been scheduled to visit was already occupied. Our second choice was fine with everyone on the boat but one anguished diver, who exclaimed, “But I already dived that site!”

Most of us who live here on Bonaire, and many of our visiting divers, enjoy the option of diving a favorite site – or sites – repeatedly, and often over a period of years. My question to you today is: what have you learned from multiple dives at one site?

Initial responses often include disappointment: The green moray (or hawksbill turtle or spotted eagle ray) I always thought lived there, since I saw it on my first dive there, doesn’t live there. Damn!

Satisfactions outweigh disappointments, though. A few years ago my friend Rob noticed a porcupinefish watching him from under a ledge. When he approached the ledge, the porcupinefish continued watching, never swimming away or retreating under the ledge. When he reached out toward the fish one day, it allowed him to stroke it! [NOTE: because the diver’s hand is wet, this does not remove mucus from the fish or hurt the fish in any way.]

Years ago a diver named Marjorie Banks, had an idea for a Patch Project: divers would pick a small, isolated reef and learn about it. Marjorie died before



This engine, placed as a mooring pre-1980, has become an oasis for encrusting corals, sponges, fish and other marine life. Photo Dee Scarr

the Patch Project could begin but it has been on my mind lately. The trouble with such a concept on Bonaire is that, in order for a person to really know a reef area, the area has to be relatively small. It’s tough to get to know a reef on Bonaire because the reef is continuous!

However, we can limit our patch in any way we want. For example, one interesting patch that’s readily available on Bonaire is the two or three-block mooring. I’ve never counted how many Christmas tree worms were on a single mooring block, but that would be interesting to learn, wouldn’t it? One day I saw that many of the worm tubes on one block were broken off. A careful look around that patch revealed a very smug-looking bat crab, whose strong claws were clearly strong enough to break worm tubes. Another three-block mooring hosted a green moray for months.

Other easily-defined patches would be the smallish sunken boats we have around Bonaire. The Hilma Hooker would be too big, of course, but maybe her propeller... Mooring blocks and sunken boats are easy patches because their limits are clear, but any natural area could also work well as the focus of your patch. Try to pick an area that’s not too deep so you can spend a lot of time there, one that includes living corals, one that you can find and get to easily, and, of course, one that you like.

Then focus on your patch. What lives under that ledge? Is it always there? Does that juvenile Spanish hogfish always clean from the same place, or does it move? What clients approach the patch to use a cleaner station? What kind of anemones are there? Who lives with them? Is that blenny using a sponge for

a tube?

Even if none of the questions, or their answers, is new to you, you’re likely to see your patch differently.

Several years ago, I recommended that divers pick a coral head and watch it over time. It turned out that a surprisingly large number of divers were watching the coral head I called Tootsie, because Tootsie was growing on the leg of an upside-down plastic chair and was thus both unique and easy to find. The numbers of people who follow Tootsie reinforce the value of an easy-to-recognize focus.

Be forewarned that, once you begin seeing your patch as an interconnected community rather than an inventory of critters, your perspective on your patch is likely to change. You’ll want to find out if the cleaners prep the injured angelfish in time for the surgeonfish to operate on General Hospital/Underwater. You’ll need to know if shelled creatures will be invited to participate in the after-sunset rituals of The Naked and the Scaled.

Without adding depth to your dives you’ll add dimensions to your observations.



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.” We are delighted to bring “Reef Glimpses” to you free of charge through [touchthesea.com](http://touchthesea.com).

## Indebon asks for cooperation in using ‘floating pier’

Indebon Sports Institute is working hard on the open water swimming pool (floating pier) in the sea near Parke Tului. To ensure that everyone can enjoy the pier safely and with pleasure, Indebon advises the people of Bonaire to respect the following rules:

**1. Use for the public:** the Floating Pier is accessible to everyone and may be used by everyone. Children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult;

**2. Responsibility:** entering the pier is entirely at your own risk. Indebon/Stina-pa accepts no responsibility or liability;

**3. Fishing Free Zone:** It is forbidden to fish on the pier with any object that can be used for fishing. This in connection with hygiene and safety for swimmers and users;

**4. Waste:** waste must be deposited in the designated waste bins and not on the pier or in the sea;

**5. No pets:** it is not allowed to bring pets onto the pier. This in connection with hygiene and safety for swimmers and users;

**6. Prohibition of alcohol, smoking and drugs:** it is prohibited to smoke or to consume/use alcohol and/or drugs on the pier;

**7. No boats allowed:** it is forbidden to moor boats at the pier or create danger by sailing too fast or too close to the pier.

### Emergencies

In the unlikely event of a problem or an accident occurring with/at the pier, the floating swimming pool and/or the disabled ramp, this must be reported to Indebon immediately. In case of immediate danger, call the following emergency numbers: Police (911), Ambulance (912),

Coast Guard (913), Fire Department (919), Decompression tank (133) and Stina-pa: +599 6778 444 (picket number can be reached from 06:00 – 9:00 PM). For information or reservations, call Indebon on +599 715 5319.





# Rassweiler conducts staghorn study with Tito

Staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) is considered one of the most important corals in the Caribbean. In the last month, a research survey with a robot named Tito explored Bonaire's staghorn coral gardens manned by Dr. Andrew Rassweiler and his research team from Florida State University (FSU).

As one of the fastest growing corals, staghorn coral was the first to be grown and outplanted successfully almost 20 years ago by Ken Nedimyer founder of Coral Restoration Foundation and later Reef Renewal Foundation International. And for the last 12 years Bonaire's own Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) has triumphed in outplanting staghorn at 10 restoration sites of which four were surveyed by Tito.

Rassweiler, his wife FSU biology professor Sarah Lester and three Ph.D. research students deployed Tito to scan sites in a criss-cross pattern like mowing the lawn from Red Slave to Punt Verkant. The robot, designed by electrical and software engineer Douglas Middleton, consists of a metal grate placed on two PVC pipes to stay afloat. The grate supports waterproof cases holding batteries, a GPS, sonar to measure depth and a radio to talk to the computer. Tito is equipped with three Go-Pros series 5, 9 and 11 that take two photos every second. Tito is programmed or can be driven manually with a remote controller over depths of up to 25 ft.

The photographs that result from these surveys are then processed by a computer vision program that can identify staghorn, sand rubble, *Orbicella* (mountainous star coral) and other corals.

Rassweiler and his team first developed and tested the robot in Moorea, French Polynesia, made some adaptations and then came to survey Bonaire's much deeper reefs three years ago.

Regarding why Bonaire was chosen to survey, Rassweiler said, "The health of the reef is one. Bonaire is in such good shape. More than in any other part of the Caribbean which means it feels like management and restoration are working."

We haven't analyzed the data, but the patches seem to be healthy and growing well. Hurricane Ian [wind swells] last fall broke a lot of the coral here at a bunch of restoration sites, so the experiment sites are smaller but growing now. A lot of the wild coral is growing too on its own."

The idea of the project goal is to have a better understanding of wild and restored sites and use the compiled data of the restored sites. With this information they can better inform Bonaire National Marine Park management and RRFB.

Lester said, "The long-term goal is to better predict where restoration can be used in the future. And to better understand ecological

interactions with other species on the reef."

Numerous fish and other marine life live in the dense thickets of staghorn coral. Several of the Ph.D students conducted fish surveys recording the types of fish including the damselfish for information about positive or negative impacts.

Tito took approximately 50 hours of photos and there are many 1000's of photos, far too many process by hand.

Lester said, "We are training an AI (Artificial Intelligence) to look at the photos and determine what organisms are present at each location on the reef, and the AI can automatically compile that information for the hundreds of thousands of photographs we collect. We are just now at that point where we have trained the AI to accurately annotate the photographs. The big focus for the next six to nine months is to crank out the results."

In addition to the staghorn coral survey Rassweiler and Lester are in the planning stage of working with STINAPA on a climate change project.

Lester said, "The challenges here are really overwhelming and it is not going to be easy. But, Bonaire's reefs are in better shape than most. The marine park has a structure in place and if they build more on climate adaptive management then Bonaire could be successful." *Julie Morgan*



Andrew and Ph.D student Ally Dubel bring Tito out of the sea. Photo Julie Morgan



Staghorn coral photographed by Tito

See also: Dr. Andrew Rassweiler: <https://www.bio.fsu.edu/faculty.php?faculty-id=rassweiler>  
Dr. Sarah Lester: <https://www.lester-lab.com/people>  
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=d4KNZWEAAAAJ&hl=en>



An older version of Tito in Moorea, French Polynesia.





# 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](mailto: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-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](http://www.onlinebibliotheek.nl)

**Marshe di Playa Local market Sat. 9-1.** Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. ):** The Pakus is closed until we find another location. We are still accepting donations at the Shelter or pickup by Paul. [paulemina@gmail.com](mailto:paulemina@gmail.com)

**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. 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)

Open now July 2023 - July 2024	<b>Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE</b> Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. See page 6.
Saturday, August <b>26</b>	<b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 15.  <b>Terramar film. La Pesca del Atun Blanco</b> 7 to 8:15 English subtitles. Reservations recommended: +599 701 4700 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/">https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/</a>
Sunday, August <b>27</b>	<b>K-Walk.</b> Kiwanis 6 K Walk-a-thon. 7 a.m. Start and finish at (Kaminda Tra'i Montaña) Kid-friendly route. Tickets \$15 on <a href="https://www.facebook.com/terramarmuseumbonaire/">Facebook</a> and Instagram for tickets. See page 10.  <b>40th Birthday Celebration Animal Shelter.</b> 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Activities planned for kids under 12. See page 19.
Saturday, Sept. <b>2</b>	<b>Piskabon Fishing Tournament.</b> Sponsored by INDEBON and SKAL. See page 15.
Sunday, Sept. <b>3</b>	<b>LVV Open day.</b> Probably 9 or 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. <b>6</b>	<b>Dia di Rincon.</b> Most offices and businesses are closed.
Wednesday, Sept. <b>13</b>	<b>Marshe di Rincon.</b> The Rincon Market will be taking place once a month on a day that has a cruise ship.
Friday, Sept. <b>15</b>	<b>MoltenWolf Glass</b> Quarterly Art Talk with Glass Artist Jeff Wolf – 6 – 9 p.m. at MoltenWolf Glass <a href="mailto:moltenwolfglass@gmail.com">moltenwolfglass@gmail.com</a>
September <b>23 - 30</b>	<b>Dive Into Bonaire Week.</b> PADI Club & TCB. Guided dives with local experts, night dives, post-dive festivities and presentations. To learn more visit <a href="http://padi.com/padiclubbonaire">padi.com/padiclubbonaire</a>
Saturday, Sept. <b>23</b>	<b>MoltenWolf Glass</b> Pop-up Gallery event. 9:30 – 5:30 with Artist Laurie Smith of Inspouration Art @Inspouration.art

## Go back in time and explore Bonaire's History & Culture

André Nahr is offering a fascinating, not to be missed 'journey' into the History & Culture of Bonaire. The classes will be taught in English over five days from September 12-28.

We will explore Bonaire's history from the arrival of the first inhabitants 3500 years ago, to the arrival of the Spanish in 1499, the first Europeans, to the Dutch more than 100 years later. We'll address the arrival of African slaves in 1640, abolition of slavery in 1863, British periods in the early 1800's up to post WWII and the start of Bonaire's modern times. The history will be combined with the cultural aspects including language, holidays, musical instruments, food, clothing, flora & fauna and much more.

### Dates

Tuesday, September 12; Thursday, September 14; Tuesday, September 19; Thursday September 21 and Tuesday, September 26, 7-9 p.m.

Venue: Fundashon Mariadal Academy, Kaya L.D. Gerharts 17 (across from hotel Central)

Cost: \$150 p.p. to be paid in cash at the first class

Sign up for this fascinating event, email [geology.andrenahr@gmail.com](mailto:geology.andrenahr@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

**Noodling in the sea.** Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9-10 a. m. across from Parke Tului on the water-front. See Facebook [Bonaire Free Noodlers](https://www.facebook.com/BonaireFreeNoodlers)

**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](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)



**Manta Monday** - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program. 7:30 p.m. Aug.28 - VIP diving; Sept. 4 - To be confirmed; Sept. 11 - VIP diving; Sept. 18 - To be confirmed; Sept. 25 - Divi Resort; Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook .Email: [Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org](mailto: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@reefrenwalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenwalbonaire.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	<b>One Hour Clean up Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>
Saturday, July <b>29</b>	<b>Selibon bario clean ups.</b> See Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063693935009">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063693935009</a>
Sunday, Sept. <b>10</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 8-10 a.m. Te Amo. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. . <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>

## Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. August 23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. August 24	CARNIVAL EQUINOX	0600-1600	South	2852
Wed. September 13	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6600
Mon. September 18	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	0700-1700	North	2500
Wed. September 20	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. September 21	CARNIVAL EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852

**Let's take out the invasive lionfish on Bonaire.**

**Join Private Divers for the FREE lionfish hunt with free air on October 7.**

**For more information or to sign up +599-786-6763**

## Deadlines

**Teens, register for Gang di Arte workshops** by August 25, 2023. See page 17.

**Residents, give your opinion on the law amendment Wolbes and Finbes acts** by September 15, 2023. See page 16.





### Eat what the Kunuku produces

*Our ancestors were people who depended upon the land. Healthy living was essential to the Bonairean daily routine. In addition to livestock farming, they grew fruits and vegetables such as watermelon, cucumber and many others. Here on Bonaire there were several plantations that produced many fruits and vegetables. To name a few; Dos Pos, Fontein, Bakuna, Rooi Lamoenchi, Guatemala and many others. So it was normal to eat what the Kunuku produced.*

This Saturday August 26, the cultural event theme of “Nos Zjilea” at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei will be “Eat what the Kunuku produces.”

The Department of Health and Welfare will introduce four tasty and healthy snacks. True to the slogan of Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei: ‘See, Feel and Taste,’ Saeed Lourens from ‘Nature Cooking School’ will prepare these snacks on the spot so you can taste for yourself how delicious and healthy they are. The recipes will be handed out so you can make these snacks at home. Onnie Emerenciana will show you how to prepare the Kunuku before the rainy season so you can ‘sow today to harvest tomorrow’ as the campaign of the De-

partment of Health and Welfare states.

Many times Bonaire ranks among the best in beauty peagants abroad. Here on the island, Anyibel Mercera and Kyshainy Celestina of Miss Teen Bonaire will share with you how they are preparing for their final presentation which will be held at the beginning of October.

Greenpeace will be present to challenge you with their statement that you too can contribute to reducing the effects of climate change that Bonaire is currently experiencing.

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

All this in a cozy atmosphere with “LIVE” performance by “Farleys Entertainment Band” and the local band “JC & Friends”. The entrance is free.

Experience ‘Nos Zjilea’, the monthly cultural event of Bonaire, Saturday, August 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. It doesn’t get more local than this. For more information, please visit Mangazina di Rei’s Facebook fan page, [www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei](http://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei).  
Izaïñ Mercera

### Piskabon fishing tournament set

Piskabon, Bonaire’s organization for fishermen, is holding a FREE Torneo di Pesca (fishing tournament) on September 2. This first ever event is for Bonaire’s local fishermen.

Ernest “Martin” Polis, Piskabon president said, “Local fisherman does not mean you have to be born here. It only means no one from other islands is allowed and no chartered boats.”

The tournament begins with registration and a Captain’s meeting on Friday, September 1, 7-10 p.m. at Parke Tului. Everyone must attend to compete and agree to the rules. Fishermen must register their boat, all crew members and a contact person on land.

Actual fishing is allowed from September 2, 12 a.m. midnight to 4 p.m.

All fishing must be done from a boat: small boats up to 18ft or large 18ft or more. Only tuna, wahoo, dorado, barracuda and yellow tail are allowed. No protected fish like grouper or sharks.

Only traditional fishing is allowed: Trolling one line or hand line. No fishing from shore or off the new Parke Tului swim pier. No netting or long lines with multiple hooks. There is no limit on how far the boats go out to fish, but everyone must return to Parke Tului to turn in their catch by 4 p.m., otherwise they are disqualified.

“We want to use the traditional way of fishing to preserve our cultural way

of living and to protect our food,” said Martin.

Catch will be judged on the biggest size, weight and most fish caught. Minimum size is 2 kilos. Prizes will be awarded.

“We will be measuring the fish from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m... Fish has to be intact with the gills and we have to be able to see that it is fresh, no frozen or pre-caught fish. We can tell,” said Martin.

STINAPA will be patrolling to ensure rules are adhered to and safety measures are followed.

Martin said, “We are going to make this a yearly event and make it bigger and better every year. Piskabon started six years ago with a small membership of a few fishermen. Now we have 80 members, and it is growing. We never had this before. We are organized and represented. We have a good relationship with STINAPA and work with them. We are successful because of communication; we have an open door policy to everyone. We are trying to make our fishermen more aware. It’s a long process to get them there.”

Piskabon offers benefits for Bonaire’s fishermen: discounts on equipment, radios, getting the cheapest prices with as much as 60% in discounts.

The fishing tournament is sponsored by Indebon and SKAL.

Julie Morgan.

**TORNEO DI PESKA 2023**

**INSKRIPSHON:**  
VIA FACEBOOK, WHATSAPP OF PERSONAL TE KU 6 PM, 1-9-23 NA PARKE TULLI

**CAPTAIN'S MEETING:**  
DJABIERNE 1 DI SEPTEMBER 7 PM - 10 PM PARKE TULLI

**PISA PISKA:**  
DJASABRA 2 DI SEPTEMBER 10 AM - 5 PM PARKE TULLI

**Pa mas informashon:**  
☎ +599 777 8318  
✉ piskabon@gmail.com  
★ Kaya Nikiboko Noord 2  
f Facebook: Piskabon

**KATEGORIA NAN:**  
• BOTO CHIKI, TE KU 18 PIA  
• BOTO GRANDI, MAS KU 18 PIA

**ENTREGA DI PREMIO:**  
DJASABRA 2 DI SEPTEMBER 7 PM - 10 PM SKAL

**PREMIO NAN PA KATEGORIA DI BOTO, PISKA KU MAS PESO:**  
• BUNI  
• DRADU  
• MULA  
• GRISTELCHI LAMAN AFO  
• PIKUDITO

**DEN KOPERASHON KU:**  
PISKABON, INDEBON, SKAL



Marine Park Informs is the latest informational site from STINAPA Bonaire National Marine Park. You can find it on Facebook under STINAPA Bonaire. Marine Park Informs has the latest information, rules regulations via videos or posters in several languages to keep you informed so being a responsible user of the marine park is easy.



# Arno Williams new representative to DCNA



The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance welcomes Arno Willems as New Representative of Patroness HRH Princess Beatrix

Since June 2023, Mr. Arno Willems has been serving as the Royal Representative of Patroness Her Royal Highness (H.R.H.) Princess Beatrix for the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA). He succeeds Mr. Jaap van Leeuwenburg, who held the position from 2009-2023 and has recently retired. The DCNA is a non-profit organization established to protect nature and promote sustainable management of natural resources on the six Dutch Caribbean islands.

Mr. Arno Willems (1959) studied forestry at the Agricultural College in Wageningen. He has worked at the Wagen-

ingen University of applied sciences, at Staatsbosbeheer (Dutch government organization for forestry and the management of nature reserves), the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and in Mali for the Dutch Volunteer Foundation. He has also performed consultancy work in the Balkans, the Caucasus and in several African countries. His field of activity includes forestry, nature conservation and agriculture. Since 2013, he has been Steward of Kroondomein Het Loo, a royal estate of more than 10,000 hectares. According to him, nature management is mainly human work and being careful with nature is very sensible: "we only have one!"

"We are extremely proud of DCNA's Patroness HRH Princess Beatrix. HRH

Princess Beatrix has a special bond with the Dutch Caribbean and has always supported our work to protect the beautiful tropical nature. We are also very grateful for her support and the pleasant cooperation with her former representative Mr. Jaap van Leeuwenburg. We look forward to continuing the work with Mr. Arno Willems," said Hellen van der Wal, Chairlady of DCNA.

*DCNA communications*

**Photo: Mr. Arno Willems - New Representative of Patroness HRH Princess Beatrix for the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance. Credit: DCNA-all rights reserved.**

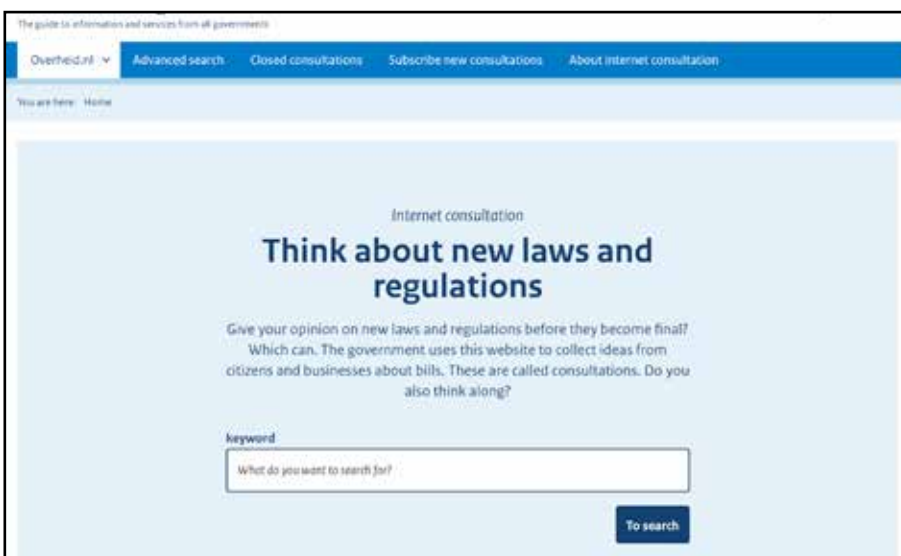
## OLB invites citizens to participate in amending the laws

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) calls on all citizens to participate in the consultation on the amendment of the BES Public Entities Act and the BES Public Entities Finance Act (WolBES and FinBES). With this amendment to the law, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations wants to improve the inter-administrative relations between Bonaire and the European part of the Netherlands. Your voice is essential in this process.

The WolBES and FinBES, which have been in force since October 10, 2010, largely determine the constitutional and financial structure of the public entity of Bonaire.

The proposed changes make some important adjustments:

1. The number of members in the Island Legislative Council will be increased.
2. The number of deputies in the Executive Council will be increased.
3. The position of the Kingdom Representative will lapse, with his tasks being redistributed between the Minister and the Lieutenant Governor, or will lapse.
4. There will be a new procedure for appointing the Lieutenant Governor,



with a greater role for the Island Legislative Council.

5. Supervision on Bonaire will be relaxed for some decisions, such as personnel decisions.
6. The supervision of the OLB's financial management and budget management will be adjusted.

The OLB greatly values your involvement in this important legislative change

and offers two easy ways for you to submit your response:

1. You can submit your response online to the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations via the internet consultation on their website.
2. Or send your opinion to the Executive Council by sending an e-mail to [consultationwolbesfinbes@bonairegov.com](mailto:consultationwolbesfinbes@bonairegov.com). The Executive Council will include the

received e-mails in the response that the Executive Council sends to the ministry. If you prefer a written response, you can deliver it personally to the following address: Kaya industria pariba 28, Attn Bureau Administrative Relations regarding WolBES/FinBES.

The Executive Council kindly requests you to submit your response before September 15, 2023. Of course you can send the same response to both the Ministry and the Executive Council.

For more information about the proposed amendment and the bill of the WolBES and FinBES, please visit [Overheid.nl](https://overheid.nl) via the page "Consultation Revision Act WolBES and FinBES" ([internetconsultatie.nl](https://internetconsultatie.nl)).

For questions on other topics, we invite you to use the usual contact methods via our website

<https://bonairegov.com/>. We look forward to receiving your valuable contributions and engaging you in this important legislative change. Together we can positively influence the future of Bonaire.

*Communication Department OLB*

## Make Bonaire Accessible - Vacation Time

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Like so many other countries all over the world, Bonaire is in vacation mode.

The only difference is that we live on such a wonderful island with wonderful temperatures, that people always ask us if we are on vacation all the time.

On Bonaire going on vacation is not always an option. In the first place it is too expensive. And in the second place: one always has to fly. And there are many people who do not love to fly.

In the old days people went with the freight-ships to and fro.

And if you stayed on Bonaire, you went to Lac or Klein Bonaire for the day or days.

Nowadays lots of people fly all over the globe to spend interesting times visiting relatives in Holland, the U.S., or elsewhere.

And still there is that group of people

who stay on Bonaire. Bonaire offers so much more today. And it is nice that it is not only for the tourists.

Take for example the new swimming pool. Created to stay afloat. Always fresh water, always good for a swim or competition. There was a plan that the floating pool also would be accessible. I have not seen that happen yet, but have good hopes that we will soon be able to take our walker, or our wheelchair and hop into the pool. And if you cannot get in now, at least you can sit at the boulevard and enjoy watching the activity.

One can take a water taxi and ride to Klein Bonaire with a well filled icebox and a big towel. Stay for the day or for a few hours and load up on the warmth and tranquility. And get home all woozy ... sleep like a baby. (On the downside, Klein is not easy to reach with a walker

nor wheelchair.)

Then you have Chachacha beach. Not very accessible, but one can sit at the paved part and be a tourist for a day.

Lac and Sorobon are wonderful places to spend a day. They are reasonably accessible and the shade is enough for everybody. On those beaches one can make very good use of beach-wheelchairs. One can get information at Indebon and at Kas di Kurason.

And for those who have to stay home, the main thing is to stay hydrated, stay in the shade and do as much or as little as you want or feel like doing. A portable CD player can provide the music for any mood, a water-hose is good for a lot of fun and wetness, a nice comfortable garden chair is important and that is about it. Oh ... And good company is very, very important. Because you don't want to

get up every time you need a fresh, cold drink ... right?

Be aware of the sun and the heat and take it easy. A sunstroke or a C.V.A. is something you want to avoid.

And when it comes to food (you need to eat) prepare cold platters and salads or call a delivery service. After all ... One should enjoy the summer. Happy vacation everyone.



*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.*



# ACE enlists teens for Gang di Arte

Gang di Arte Bonaire (Art Gang Bonaire) is offering workshops for teenagers aged 13 to 19 who want to become an artist.

Bonaire is an island rich in talent, but unfortunately there are few opportunities for young people to develop their talents in a structured way. In the first period of Gang di Arte, there will be space for 30 young people to receive workshops on different disciplines.

In the first period of Gang di Arte, workshops will be offered in four disciplines: Dance, DJ, MC and "Influencer" or content creator for social media. The workshops will be given by instructors with extensive experience in their field. Period 1 will last until December and is divided into three phases. In the first phase teens will attend the workshops. In the second phase they will prepare for a presentation and in the third phase they will enter the "follow-up" phase where they will receive more workshops and tasks to continue developing as an artist. They will also receive opportunities to make presentations both in Bonaire and in Aruba, Curaçao and the Netherlands. The presentations outside of Bonaire are part of the cultural exchange agreement between the organizations on the ABC islands and also Kunstbende Nederland.

In the second period from January to July 2024, Gang di Arte Bonaire will offer workshops on more disciplines that fall under art and entertainment.

A spokesperson says: "One of the best paid groups in the world are artists. Be it an actor, singer, DJ, choreographer, painter, influencers, film director or many

more. But it takes dedication, work and structured opportunities to develop these talents from a young age. America is a champion in this and in recent years the Netherlands has also seen the importance and socio-economic value of developing the artistic sector."

**Kunstbende Nederland**

The Gang di Arte Bonaire project is largely based on the model of Kunstbende Nederland (Art Gang Netherlands), a project that has existed for 32 years. During each year the young members attend different workshops, and afterwards each region of the Netherlands holds their semi-final competition. Winners from each region compete nationally at the Young Creators Festival, earning the opportunity to gain stage experience. Members of Kunstbende have access to a network of more than 5000 members, so members can find someone to work with and learn from. Several artists who have won the Kunstbende competition have continued to develop and achieve different levels of popularity both in the Netherlands and internationally. Among them are DJ and producer Martin Garrix and singer Duncan Lounace.

*This fame is something we want to achieve for Bonaire as well. We call on all young people who want to become a DJ, MC, Dancer or Influencer to contact ACE Foundation via phone number +599790-0155, Facebook page ACE Bonaire or e-mail acesbonaire@gmail.com. Registration officially ends August 25, 2023. (The Reporter suggests: but if you see this story after the deadline, ask anyway - we wish you the opportunity.)*

# No diving means don't dive here



Most divers are respecting the dive prohibition beyond BOPEC, although a few offenders are still pleading ignorance.

In response to public reports of people diving in the closed area, STINAPA has reinforced the "no diving" message by adding new signage at the northern dive sites.

The Reporter suggests STINAPA also attach a pair of prominent signs to the fence on each side of the cattle guard at BOPEC. As part time resident diver Rikki Kahn-Yee shows us, when people drive by the disinfection station, the first "No Diving" sign can hide in the eye clutter. Those who don't want to see it probably have an especially hard time picking it out.

FYI, the disinfection station at BOPEC is there for the use of snorkelers. They should disinfect their equipment too.

DMR / Photos Lisa Yee



# July's roost count recorded

On Saturday, July 29, the Echo Foundation organized the midyear roost count (lora count) to assess the minimum population of loras on the island. Forty-nine enthusiastic volunteers got up early to help collect this scientific data.

In total, 498 Loros were counted at 19 sleeping places (grids). The Lora roosts are located for a large part in and around Rincon and in Washington Slagbaai Park (WSNP). But also elsewhere on the island volunteers have counted Loros at known grids. The counting happens simultaneously, which

means that the different grids are counted at the same time.

Fewer Loros were counted this year than in previous years because two important roosts in the Slagbaai park could not be visited. The result of the count is always an estimate of the minimum number of Loros on the island.

During the count, the volunteers witness the awakening of the Loros. This is accompanied by a lot of noise and babbling. Then the Loros fly out of their sleeping place (roost) to look for food. Watching Loros wake up is a once in a lifetime experience!

Do you also want to have this experience once (or several times)? Come help Echo with our next grid count!

The next count is Saturday, January 27, 2024. Save the date!



# GANG DI ARTE

BONAIRE ARUBA CURAÇAO

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ARE YOU A CREATIVE YOUNGSTER AGE 13-19 YEARS?  
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# Shelter News

## Shelter Celebrates 40 Years

This month Animal Shelter Bonaire marks 40 years in existence. With eyes on the future, we are celebrating the occasion by organizing a children's celebration "Learn While Playing" at the Shelter on Sunday, August 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The day opens at 10 a.m. with a performance and workshop by Dance and More. With a focus on children under 12, there will be all sorts of games and activities, including learning stations, raffle prizes, a photo moment with the Paw Patrol and much, much more. All children must be accompanied by adults.

There will also be vendors with snacks, a bar with cold drinks and a market with children's clothes, books, and toys. Lots of fun for children and adults!

Please join us to celebrate 40 years on Sunday, August 27, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26.

The Shelter has sheltered and cared for thousands of animals over the last 40 years. Our free sterilization program has prevented over 8,400 cats and dogs from having unwanted litters. Our school and education programs emphasize the proper care of animals and the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals. But our mission and the challenges it brings continues and we are working hard to make the next 40 years even better!

*Jane Disko*

For a good history of the first 35 years of Animal Shelter Bonaire, check out the story that appeared in *The Bonaire Reporter* August 13-27, 2018 edition, page 5.

<https://bonairereporter.com/back-issues/2018/201817.pdf>

## Pets of the Week



**Dirk**

**Hi, my name is Dirk.**

I am asked to introduce myself which I find very exciting but I will do my best.

From the time I was a little kitten I don't remember much. My first memories go back to when I was a little boy of around 8 months old. I was minding my own business eating some mice and lizards and visiting my human friends to be petted once in a while. Those human friends liked me, gave me food and water but I never had a house of my own.

This human friend couldn't take care of me so she asked around but nobody knew me. Then she brought me to the Animal Shelter. Here I got pills, injections and they took my private parts (ahum). And then, they said, I was ready for adoption.

I'm almost 2 years old now and so I waited and waited for more then 8 months now. I see cats coming and going but the people just don't notice me. I'm a handsome boy, very relaxed but not the first to greet you. I'm good with other cats, humans (big and small) and I never met a dog but I see a lot of them here at the shelter.

I can catch mice for you if you want me to. But most important, I love a hug now and then and want to be your best furry friend forever.

Do you think you can give me the home I need? Then I will give you all my cat love in return.

*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](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)**

**ANIMAL SHELTER Bonaire**

Free entry

Children under 12 must have supervision

**DIVINE SWEETS & more**

**August 27th**  
**Kaminda Lagun 26**  
**10 am till 2 pm**

Be on time!  
To start the celebration at 10 am  
Dance & More will perform a dance workshop for everybody to join

Animal Shelter Bonaire Celebrates our 40 years By organizing a big children's party Learn while playing 🐾

- \* Dance workshop by Dance & More
- \* Bouncy castle
- \* Vendors with snacks
- \* Market with clothes, children's books and toys
- \* Face painting
- \* Children's games
- \* Splash zone (washing shelter dogs)
- \* Dog CPR course
- \* Question & Education corner
- \* Photo moment with the Paw Patrol
- \* Great prizes to be won with raffle tickets
- \* First 50 visitors (kids) will receive a goodie bag



**Pim**

**Dear animal friends,**

I would like to introduce you to our sweet Pim.

Pim is a happy friendly boy who likes to play and sometimes trips over his own paws like a silly puppy. I think he sometimes forgets he is not a puppy anymore especially when he is trying to climb onto your lap for cuddles.

Pim is friendly to other dogs, and loves children. We took Pim in from the streets one year ago and we think he about two years old with a lot more years to come. We hope those years will be spent in a warm home with a loving family.

Please visit the shelter, and meet our sweet Pim.

*Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt*



# A life well lived on Bonaire



Helen and Al Fine at home on Bonaire. Family photo

walking the beach. The couple had been to Bonaire (side note: my parents visited the ABC islands around the same time and this sounds like my mother).

The women told Helen and Al, "Whatever you do, don't go to Bonaire. There's absolutely nothing there". After the couple left, Al immediately turned to Helen and said, "Let's go there next!"

And so they did. Helen told me, "There were only six people staying at the Hotel Bonaire and we fell in love with it all. One of the employees had a boat and Al asked if we could rent his boat, so the hotel packed us a huge lunch and off we went to Klein Bonaire. We watched the clouds coming over Bonaire and had the whole island to ourselves. We took a picture of our bathing suits lying on the beach."

Al and Helen immediately decided to buy on Bonaire and make it a second home.

Helen said, "We spoke to Bruce Bowker and Norman Everetts recommended a man who took Al up to what is now Santa Barbara. He suggested we buy on the hill [Santa Barbara] so we looked at a lot. And we bought

our lot".

They built their house on Kaya Turkesa and it was the only house in Santa Barbara. Electricity had to be connected to their single house on the hill. They really wanted lights for Christmas and the electric company ran the wires almost to their house, but ran out of money for the last 150 feet of connection. Al went down with the workers and paid for the last of the necessary wiring himself. Lights were on for Christmas.

Helen told me, "Al learned to dive before I did. I didn't want to dive. I was happy swimming but then I got a mask. Al would dive and come up with a huge grin on his face. When he was a child he tried to make a diving machine, like scuba. I was terrified diving at first. I refused to descend and the guide and Al had to coax me down and suddenly I was at 30 feet. The guide's bathing suit was a super tiny Speedo and I was practically inside that Speedo I was so close to him."

One of the sweetest things Al ever said to Helen was, "What would have happened to me if I had married someone else?"



Only those who experience "Truly Live" by Helen Fine. Family photo.

After Al died, Helen felt Al's spirit was still present at the Bonaire house. She never stopped loving him and she never stopped loving Bonaire. Outside her assisted living apartment in the space provided (where most residents have family pictures, or pictures of flowers) Helen had pieces of her life on Bonaire, pictures of fish, coral bits and a mini sea-scape. Bonaire for Helen, like many of us, was her sacred happy place.

I know she did many things for many people on Bonaire. I

believe she helped some young people get accepted to colleges in the US. She had lots of friends, snorkeled with the Queen Angels and was a regular at the Bridge Club.

I have a tree she gave me 15 years ago from a shoot in her yard that I planted in my garden. It produces amazing pink blossoms every morning. It's now 30 feet high. I call it Helen's magic tree and I hope her spirit will visit my Bonaire house too.

Ginny Knight



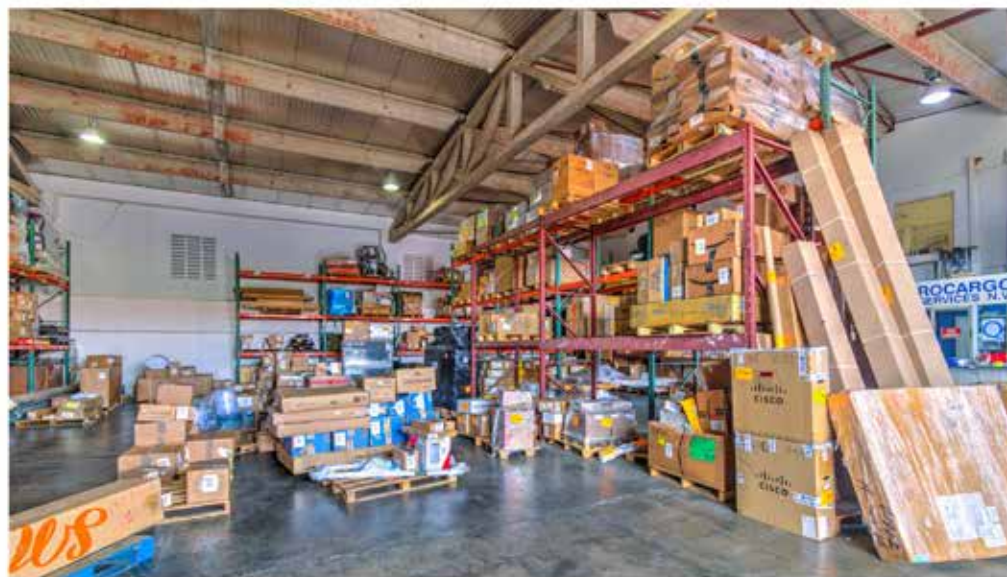
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