



Acknowledging the goodness of Bruce Bowker

The late, legendary Bruce Bowker, April 16, 1947 – May 9, 2020, arrived on Bonaire to work for six months for the late Captain Don Stewart as his first dive instructor and never left. He loved Bonaire and worked his entire life to preserve and protect its nature, environment and animals.

Jane Disko Animal Shelter Bonaire board member for seven years and volunteer since 2004 said,

“What many people do not know is that he [Bruce] was quietly known for his care, affection, and involvement in caring for every kind of animal on Bonaire, even pelicans and iguanas. Carib Inn always had plenty of dogs and cats that he rescued and deeply cared for. Part of his love of animals included supporting Animal Shelter Bonaire for over 25 years through Shelter merchandise sales and donations. Carib Inn was at one time the only place on the island where you could buy a Shelter t-shirt or Bonaire license plate with all funds going to the Shelter.”

After Bruce’s fatal accident in 2020, his much loved niece Lynne Culbreth, who spent every summer diving with her uncle, found a way to return to Bonaire even during the Covid lockdown. She is now running the Inn and continues Carib Inn’s support of the Shelter.

Lynne said, “After my uncle Bruce passed away, people asked where they could make a donation in his honor.

Without hesitation, we knew the Bonaire Animal Shelter would be the perfect place. Bruce not only loved his animals, he loved ALL animals.”

“To acknowledge his legacy on Bonaire and his support of the Shelter, we decided to create a mural in his honor. We put out a call for muralists interested in doing the project and came across a true creative “gem” in Joan Smit. Her painstaking research into Bruce’s history and her incredible artistic talent resulted in the beautiful mural recently completed and unveiled at Animal Shelter Bonaire,” said Jane.

Mural artist Joan Smit explains the mural concept: There are times in everyone’s life when a gift of chance comes along which can make a difference in the lives of others. That was true for Bruce Bowker who chanced to meet Captain Don and that meeting ultimately made a difference in the lives of so many on Bonaire...and around the world. When I was presented with the opportunity to memorialize Bruce with a mural at the Animal Shelter, I saw it as a chance to tell a small portion of his story through images of his life here. I created and gifted it with the hope that others would be inspired to give back to Bonaire with the same passion that drove Bruce in his love for this island, the sea and all the animals on Bonaire.

You can “read” his story through the images. Beginning with the depiction of

the dive site, Red Slave, which signifies Bruce’s enthusiasm for the underwater world and what brought him to Bonaire. It also speaks to the history of, and his work towards, preservation of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire and his deep empathy for the people here. Under that, you will see two of the cats who lived at his resort, Carib Inn. “Callie” (the calico cat) and “Scootch” (the orange and white cat) lay on a chaise that evokes the beds that Bruce built for any cat who made its home with him. The yellow and white striped upholstery harkens to the Inn’s towels that he would use to make pillows and mattresses for them.

Bruce is holding one of his many Dalmatians and, on his shirt, you can see the patch that tells you he was a diver. Flowing behind and to the right of Bruce, is the Caribbean Sea with only a sampling of its wonders that he loved. However, the blue tang is the only fish you will see. They age from the yellow of the young to the deep blue of the elders. It is a symbol of Bruce coming to the island as a young man and living out his life in the waters of the Sea. The tang swim towards and around the spar that denotes the remaining dive site bearing his name: Bruce’s Rappel.

In the sky is the quote: “He believed in goodness for all animals.” A truism that he lived out daily at the Inn and with his ardent support of the Animal Shelter. On the cliff above the spar stands Bruce, ready to rappel into the sea as a young

man. It is painted in the colors of photographic history...a black and white image. Above him fly two flamingos. They are the symbols of his labor of love, Carib Inn. No longer static, they wing with his soul over this land that he adored.

To view the mural just drive by the Shelter on Kaminda Lagun or stop in for a visit and say hi. The cats and dogs would love to see you. And, you can always make a donation. Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

American artist Joan Smit lives and works on Bonaire. She received an Associate’s degree in art from Illinois Central College in 2004 and a BFA in Fine Arts from Illinois State University in 2008. Imagery informed by language and the human intersection with animals and birds have great significance for her art. These elements appear frequently throughout her work, which concentrates on painting, sculpture, printmaking and ceramics.

Julie Morgan

**Proudly standing in front of the 28 x 15 ft high “Bruce Wall” are:
L-R - Bruce’s niece and now owner of Carib Inn Lynne Culbreth, artist Joan Smith and Shelter manager Sanne Attevelt.**

WEB says Bonaire has no energy to waste

1. Turn off lights and unplug electronics when not in use.
2. Replace your light bulbs with LED bulbs if you haven't already.
3. Set your airco thermostat to no more than 10 degrees below the outside temperature.

WEB says those three steps will not only reduce your power bill, they will help assure you have power at all. Bonaire's hot season is hotter than ever this year, and WEB/ ContourGlobal's generation and distribution capacity is hard pressed to keep up with the increased energy demand.

WEB says that some neighborhoods could be temporarily dis-

connected if the demand exceeds the generation capacity. The disconnection will be according to a predefined schedule and sequence if it occurs.

ContourGlobal (CGB) has been increasing its generation capacity steadily, but global warming keeps moving the goalposts. Since 2019 CGB has invested \$41 million in expanding its output capacity. Many new projects are still being planned or are under construction, however. They will not come online immediately. The solar field now being tested and carefully integrated into the grid will add 6 MW in output and 14 MWh battery storage. Redevelopment of the Morotin wind farm will add 6 MW capacity. Diesel generation will be increased by 4 MW.

DMR

Law enforcement gangs up on foreign worker violators

In August a company on Bonaire was the target of the first multidisciplinary raid by the 'immigration chain.' Under the direction of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force, the action was carried out in collaboration with the Labor Inspectorate of the Social Affairs and Employment unit, the Immigration and Naturalization Service CN, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, the Supervision and Enforcement Department of the Public Entity Bonaire, the Maritime Multidisciplinary Hub Bonaire (MMHB), the Tax and Customs Administration Caribbean Netherlands, and the Judicial Institution Caribbean Netherlands.

Thanks to multidisciplinary cooperation, several laws could be enforced at the same time. Compliance was investigated with laws pertaining to labor, aliens and legal residence. Inspectors assured that work was being done in a fair, safe and healthy manner, and they established that foreign nationals and Dutch citizens who worked for the company do reside on Bonaire and can legally work here. About 14 people were invited to explain discrepancies regarding their residence and work permits.

The immigration chain will continue to carry out joint checks. They will limit the disruption for the company and its customers or guests as much as possible. DMR

Peace restored at SGB perhaps

Rico van der Schree has been appointed Vice Chairman of the Management Board of SGB (the umbrella organization for the high schools). He will serve as the interim administrator and Chairman of the Management Board during the search for a permanent chairman. The position became vacant upon the recent departure of Klaske van Apperloo. DMR

Cat's eyes and road renovations

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) is conducting a trial of solar-powered "cat's eyes" and reflectors that improve night visibility by illuminating the edges of a highway. The installations have been completed on the curve on Kaminda Onima and the area near Mangazina di Rei just outside Rincon. Other roads will be marked if the project proves successful.

The renovation of Kaya Korona has been disruptive, especially in the morning hours. And since the schools have started, traffic jams are forming at the connection of Kaminda Djabou with Kaya Amsterdam. The government and the contractors are working hard to complete the Kaya Korona project as quickly as they can.

The Directorate of Space and Development (R&O) of the Public Entity, headed by Commissioner Hennyson Thielman, is responsible for Bonaire's roads. DMR

Restoration of government building forces temporary move

The Executive Council and Cabinet of the Lieutenant Governor have moved to clear the way for the renovation of the long-time seat of Bonaire's government at Plaza Wilhelminaplein. The striking building in the heart of Kralendijk is part of Bonaire's cultural heritage.

The temporary office of the executive council and cabinet authority is located in the office building at Kaya Grandi 30. It can be accessed via the entrance located on the side of the parking lot Centrumgebied Playa. Business hours continue as before: Monday to Friday from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 2-4 p.m.

DMR

Dutch to bail out Curaçao and Sint Maarten following Ennia embezzlement

The Hague has announced it will lend Curaçao and Sint Maarten 600 million euros to protect some 30,000 Ennia policyholders who face reductions in their pension payments. The Central Bank placed Ennia under guardianship in 2018 and filed a lawsuit against owner Hushang Ansary and other directors to recover more than a billion guilders that disappeared from Ennia's assets. After vigorously denying the accusations and appealing the ruling, Ansary announced in March that he and the others will comply with the judgment.

More than a billion euros in Corona loans to Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten (CAS) are already scheduled to come due on October 10. The Hague has offered to renew the loans at 3.1% interest if CAS islands agree to continue negotiating governmental reforms. Otherwise the loans will be extended at market-rate interest, which averages between 6% and 8%.

DMR



Placing the solar cat's eyes in the Rincon road. Photo OLB

Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 4

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We are taking a small break.
Look for the next issue of
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September 27, 2023.

Lady Bellaïs – elegant, fun and a ship with heart



Fun seekers board Lady Bellaïs in the Harbour Village Marina. Photo Julie Morgan

When you first board the Lady Bellaïs, you think, What a beautiful antique! And you would be correct. The wood railings surrounding the decks, all polished and gleaming plus the old wooden captain ship's wheel (Johnny Depp where are you?) were repurposed from older sailing vessels. But the boat itself is otherwise brand new and ready for many a sail on Bonaire's waters. She's large enough to comfortably hold 100 guests (60 preferred) who can either sit, stand, walk around comfortably alongside the rails or go upstairs to enjoy the view and breeze from the large, upper deck. The central

lower deck has lots of comfortable seating and that is where the drinks and food are served.

FOODIES TAKE NOTE: What looked like wedges of wedding cake turned out to be an amazing, white, creamy chicken sandwich that was light and fluffy and I admit I ate two. A beautiful bouquet of fruit chunks on a spear, chips and salsa and little savory pastries filled with cheese or chicken were on display that looked too good to eat (but I did).

All drinks and wine were served in glassware in keeping with Bonaire's 'no

plastic' policy and adding a definite touch of class. You can sail Sunday for the Bella Brunch. Or you can sign up Tuesday or Friday for Bella Bites & Fun, a lovely late afternoon sail, swim, snorkel tour and cocktail party that's perfect for your last day on Bonaire, divers! Four star dinner cruises with white tablecloths and live entertainment are coming (date night, anyone?)

THE TRAPEZE! Insane and fun, yes, there's even a trapeze you can use to swing off the bow and jump, or flip or

Lady Bellaïs
continued on page 9



Photo Julie Morgan



Senne serves a beautiful bouquet of fruit kebabs. Photo Julie Morgan

FOR SALE! Courtyard Village Apt. BH2A New Construction



- Location: Antriol Pabou
- Living size : 80 m2 / 861 sq. ft.
- 2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom / storage room



- Communal pool, lush tropical garden
- Dive shop and reception onsite
- Vacation rentals allowed



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Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Sometimes wishes do come through



Top photo: BIA's Ambulift as it drives on the runway. Bottom photo: It can be fully extended when stopped.

One of the biggest reasons MiVaBo was set up was because the founders were so disappointed that there was no decent Ambulift to get persons with disabilities in and out aircrafts on Bonaire.

This has been a focus for quite a few years till a combined effort was made and two Aviramps were bought and were introduced with a party and a demonstration. Everybody was very happy.

And then the downfall came. The Aviramps were not good. They could slam against the fuselage of the aircraft and thus damage them. The contraptions were locked away in a chicken-coop like place.

Everybody still had to get carried in and out of the aircraft by three or four big, strong men. A very scary experience.

MiVaBo was informed that BIA (Bonaire International Airport) had plans to get another kind of Ambulift from Holland, install it and train their staff. COVID 19 was a little spell-breaker, but then the news came that the plan would succeed. And we all forgot about it because we did not hear from it again.

A couple of days ago we could read the news in the papers. The Ambulift had arrived, and the staff would get their training.

You can imagine that we were all so very happy. A dream had come through. The Ambulift was working!

No more fear, no more frustration and no more stress. Persons with limitations are now driving into the cabin, they are zapped high up to the aircraft door and rolled out to their assigned seating.

I have to be honest, I really cried when it dawned on me. We would have loved to see it in person, get a demonstration and really feel it. But ... it does not really matter.

A lot of friends sent a little prayer to heaven for Michael Gaynor as this one is for him and for the other two board members of MiVaBo who initiated the foundation. Thank you BIA for this decision.

And just yesterday and last week Thursday MiVaBo also was invited to a workshop "Inspiration and Vivi-sessions on Mobility."

The intention is to try to make Bonaire better accessible, sustainable, durable and livable. And the workshop is a way to see if there are possibilities to make that happen. Different countries and islands have made that possible already and enjoy all the changes.

Bonaire is growing very fast with more inhabitants and traffic and it needs to be more manageable to make sure Bonaire stays the island we all love and appreciate while we still love to live so much.

We are looking forward to the further actions and results.

Things always seem to look so impossible, wishes seem not to come through and a change never seems to come. But now it looks like things are going to change. Wishes might come through..... It does not matter if it takes a while. But as long as you can see and feel the changes slowly happen, there is hope.

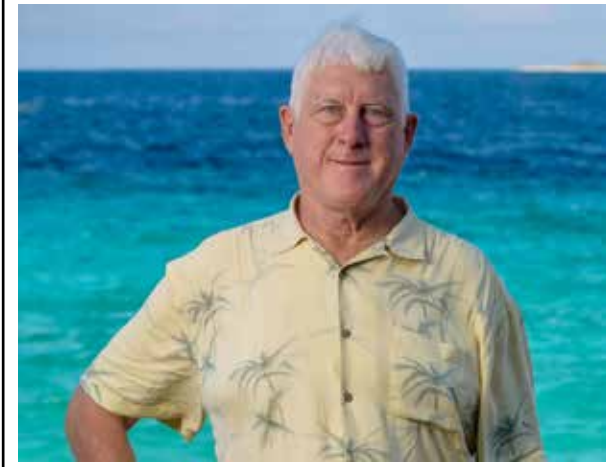
Photos Julie Morgan



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.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Dear Bob,
Are most houses on Bonaire sold furnished? If I don't want the furniture, can I offer a lower sales price? Jim

Hi Jim,

Most homes on Bonaire are sold with at least some furnishings, especially if the owners do not live on the island and do not want to ship furniture off the island. Used furniture does not have high value, so generally Sellers are just including it with the sale of the home and are not willing to significantly reduce the selling price in order to sell it unfurnished. If you buy a furnished home and do not plan to use the furnishings, you can donate them to a Bonaire charity such as the Animal Shelter, or sell them.

When making an offer on a furnished property, you will receive an inventory list that shows what items are included. Look at the list carefully, since the owners may exclude some furnishings in addition to their personal items. At the final walkthrough prior to closing, this list is used to verify that the items listed remain with the home.

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. Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

The Reporter is taking a short break. Look for our next issue September 27, 2023.



New BES Tax Law coming

The ministry of Finance is preparing amendments to the BES Tax Law that will take effect of January 1, 2024. At present, not much is expected to change for the average citizens. Some of the proposed changes are worrisome for business owners, for hotel owners in particular.

The Real Estate Tax (Vastgoedbelasting) for hotels might increase from 10% to 12.5%, for instance. Entrepreneurs are particularly concerned with the likely increase in the so-called usual salary (Gebruikelijk Loon), the salary that managing directors/major shareholders are required to pay themselves.

A few relaxations have been proposed as well.

DMR (BESreporter)

Station board continues to allow archeological destruction

Statia Roads & Construction has continued its depredations on the archaeological site associated with what is believed to be the enslaved African village area of the former Golden Rock plantation on St. Eustatius. The area is being excavated for St. Eustatius' multi-million dollar airport boulevard redevelopment. According to archaeologist Mr. Budsberg, approximately one third of the area was irrevocably destroyed.

Opponents say the work proceeded with the illicit approval of the board of the St. Eustatius Center for Archaeological Research (SECAR). The SECAR board denies that they gave permission. The Culture Department of St. Eustatius government halted the digging and

is investigating the events.

According to the news release, in January 2022 the Statia Heritage Research Commission (SHRC) reported that SECAR deliberately misinformed the descendants and broader communities of St. Eustatius about the excavation in 2021 of the ancestral remains of 69 enslaved Africans from the former Golden Rock burial ground.

According to the SHRC report, the director of SECAR at the time, Mr. Stelten, "did not see the far more significant issues of emotional attachment and affinity for the human remains of St. Eustatius' ancestors, nor did he see the vital role that ancestors have for the surviving population of St. Eustatius today."

The SECAR board consists of seven people: four Americans, two Dutch, and one Statian. Three board members, including the President, have served on the board since 2008. SECAR is known for questionable practices in the ethical treatment of Afrikan cultural heritage resources and its failure to engage with the descendant community. *DMR*

POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

Sept. 3. An 11 ft Boston Whaler Sport 'Jammin,' registration number NC6B, was reported stolen. A Yamaha Enduro motor was mounted on the boat. The boat was at a house under construction at Sabadeco Crown Park.

Sept. 2. Between 1 and 3 a.m. two pairs of Luis Vuitton sunglasses, an Invicta watch and a Samsung S10 telephone were stolen from an unlocked car parked on Kaya Soeur Bartola.

Aug. 27. A dark gray Kymco, Agility scooter with license plate MF-1356 was stolen between 1:30 - 8:30 a.m. from a tourist accommodation on Kaya Yuma.

Aug. 26. A motorcycle was reported stolen. The motorcycle was parked in front of a house on Kaya Karaña and was stolen between Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26.

Aug. 26. Around 2:15 p.m. a man, 42, was arrested for theft and a woman, 34, was arrested for theft and for insulting an official in office. The man was caught red-handed in a supermarket when he wanted to take goods without paying. The woman was outside in a car waiting for the man. Police seized the suspects' car and various food items.

Aug. 21. A burglary was reported in a home on Kaya Albert Engelhardt. Strangers forced the door to enter between 7 a.m. and 5:40 p.m. and stole a passport, a gold and silver necklace and various other goods.

Aug. 18. Two black Senzo scooters with license plates MF-3381 and MF-3374, were stolen. The scooters were parked locked with a chain lock and a steering wheel lock on the grounds of an apartment complex on Kaya Embira. They were stolen between 3 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Aug. 19. A burglary was reported in a house on Kaminda Lagun. Unknown persons broke into the house between Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19 and took a passport, among other things.

Arrests

Sept. 3. In the early evening a man, 56, was arrested for vandalism. The man was involved in an altercation with another man at a restaurant on Kaya Papa Cornes. Tempers rose and the suspect smashed a car window with a stone.

Sept. 2. In the evening a man, 23, was arrested for driving under the influence and a man, 39, was arrested for assault with a weapon. Both suspects were involved in a fight at a catering facility on Kaya Neerlandia.

Sept. 2. In the night a man, 63, was arrested for public intoxication. He was sleeping in his car in the middle of the road at Kaya Papa Cornes. When the patrol arrived, the man was ordered to get out of the car. The man spoke with a double tongue, his breath smelled of alcohol and he was unsteady on his feet. He could not correctly comply with the breathalyzer test. He was taken to the station for sobering up. The car was also taken for safekeeping.

Aug. 31. In the early hours of the morning two house searches took place under the BES Weapons Act, the first in Nikiboko and the second in Amboina. No firearms were found but a number of articles, probably stolen, were seized. A 17-year-old man was arrested in connection with the ongoing investigation.

Aug. 26. In the evening hours a woman, 21, was arrested for assaulting a man with a knife.

Aug. 25. A man, 55, was arrested for assaulting a woman with a machete on Kaya Avelino J. Cecilia. The machete has been seized and the suspect's vehicle has been taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Aug. 22. Around 1:40 p.m. the central control room received a report of vandalism at a house located on Kaya Gratiut. The suspect allegedly smashed the windows of the home. A man, 40, was arrested for vandalism.

Aug. 22. Two house searches were conducted in the early morning hours. At a residence on Kaya Chopin, a man, 24, was arrested in connection with threats and violations of the BES Weapons Act. At a home in Barrio Mexico, a man, 28, was arrested for assault.

Driving under the influence

Sept. 3. At around 6:20 p.m. a man, 51, was arrested at Kaya Bareta for driving under the influence. A patrol

stopped a pick-up that drove by at high speed with two flat tires. After a breath test the driver was arrested and his driver's license confiscated.

Sept. 3. A man, 56, was arrested for driving under the influence. The driver drove wide onto Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago and ended up on the wrong side of the road. The patrol saw the driver had bloodshot eyes and gave him a breathalyzer test.

Sept. 3. In the evening a man, 35, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was involved in a two-vehicle collision on Kaya Korona.

Aug. 31. A man, 20, was arrested for driving under the influence and for not complying with police demands. The suspect was spotted driving his scooter in a prohibited direction. He did not obey a police order to stop but drove on until he drove into a berm and fell. The suspect was found to be under the influence of alcohol and was arrested. He was also issued a ticket for driving in a prohibited direction. The scooter was taken to the police station for safekeeping.

Aug. 26. In the night the drivers of two scooters were arrested for driving under the influence. The suspects were stopped on the Kaya Gilberto F. Croes and Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar for a routine check. Following the result of a breath test both drivers were arrested, a man, 18, and a woman, 21.

Aug. 26. Around 2 a.m. a patrol found a car overturned along the road at Bulevar E.E.G. near Donkey Beach. The driver was still in the car when the patrol arrived. Because she spoke with double tongue and was unsteady on her feet, a breath test was taken. The result of the breath test gave reason to arrest her. But because she had a lot of broken glass in her leg as a result of the accident, she was taken by ambulance to the hospital for medical treatment.

Aug. 20. In the evening the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) conducted a scheduled alcohol check on Kaya Ir Randolph Statius van Eps. During this check, 32 drivers were checked with a breathalyzer test. Three persons were arrested for driving under the influence. A man, 31, was banned from driving for three hours. A woman, 32, was arrested and her license was confiscated. A woman, 22, was also arrested and was banned from driving for five hours.

Aug. 20. On Kaya Korona around 6 p.m. the driver of a car collided with a lamppost. The driver had no balance and he spoke with a double tongue. Following a breathalyzer test, the man, 35, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The car he was driving was impounded.

Aug. 20. Around 3:30 p.m. a single-vehicle collision occurred on Kaminda Sorobon. A pickup drove over a lamppost and ended up in the bushes along the road. The paramedics checked both occupants on location. The driver of the car was unsteady on his feet and spoke with double tongue. After a breathalyzer test he was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. The road was temporarily closed so that the electricity company could carry out its work on the lamppost.

Aug. 19. In the night a man, 47, was arrested on Kaya Industria for driving under the influence after he was stopped for a routine checkup.

Traffic

Aug. 30. In the afternoon hours on Kaminda Lac a group of dogs attacked a scooter, causing the driver to lose control and fall. She was taken to hospital by ambulance. The dogs were not found.

Aug. 22. Around 5 p.m. a car and a bicycle collided at the intersection of Kaminda Djabou and Kaya Sirena. The cyclist stated that he was travelling south on Kaminda Djabou when he suddenly saw a car in front of him. The cyclist was checked on the spot by the ambulance staff. The driver of the car was unable to show proof of insurance and was issued a report.

Aug. 19. A scooter and a car collided on Bulevar E.E.G. The driver of the scooter drove into the back of a car that was about to turn. The driver of the scooter went to the hospital on his own for medical treatment. Both the car and the scooter suffered minimal damage.

Traffic control

Aug. 31. In the morning hours the police conducted two speed checks by measuring the speed of approaching cars with a 'laser gun.' During the speed check on the Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot, 40 drivers were checked and seven were issued official reports for exceeding the maximum permitted speed of 40 km/h in built-up areas. The speed measured was between 50 and 65 km/h.

During the second check on Bulevar EEG, the maximum allowed speed was measured, both in built-up areas (40 km/h) and outside (60 km/h). A total of 63 drivers were checked, of which three official reports were issued for exceeding the maximum speed of 40 km/h. The speed measured was between 57 and 66 km/h. A police report was also issued here for driving without a driver's license and without valid insurance.

The KPCN will continue to carry out speed checks at various locations on the island and warns motorists to watch their speed on the road.

Aug. 26. A scheduled traffic check was held at around 9:45 p.m. at Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. During the check, 12 motor vehicles were stopped and checked. Three tickets were issued for driving without a valid driver's license.

Aug. 22. A patrol on duty stopped the driver of a car for a check on the Bulevar Miguel Pourier. The car had no license plate and the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. He was issued a report for both violations.

Aug. 21. Around 6 p.m. a car was stopped for a routine check on Kaya Ka'i Orgel. The driver could not show a driver's license and received a report. Around 2:45 p.m., a car was stopped on Kaya Grandi when an on-duty patrol spotted the driver using his mobile phone while driving. The driver was ticketed. Around 2:30 p.m., a pick-up on Kaya Nikiboko South was stopped when the driver was spotted with a phone in hand. He was ticketed. Several truck drivers were stopped and several official reports were issued: for driving without valid insurance documents, for driving without a license and for driving without a seat belt.

Aug. 21. A scheduled traffic check was held in Rincon during the afternoon. During this inspection, a total of 12 official reports were issued: for driving without a seatbelt (10); for driving without a driver's license and for driving without a seat belt (1); for driving without a license plate on the front of the car (1).

The amount of a fine for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

Fire

Aug. 25. The central control room received a report that a service car from the Dutch Caribbean Police Force was on fire on Kaya Viol. An investigation concluded that the fire was caused by a technical malfunction and that there is no question of arson.

Public Order

Sept. 1. A car was seized after the driver failed to comply with police demands. The driver drove onto Kaminda Essequibo from an unnamed side road without giving way to the patrol car. Police instructed the driver to stop. The driver stopped, but drove off when officers got out of the car. A short chase ensued. On Kaminda di Lac, the driver stopped again, but ran away on foot towards Barrio Nieuw Amsterdam. After this, the patrol decided to give up the pursuit because of the danger to the many people who were in the area. Another man showed up at the location who owned the car but was unable to show any valid documents. The car was therefore taken to the police station.

Aug. 18. In the evening the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) checked six catering establishments for a valid permit to operate. Three catering establishments and three mobile eateries were checked. The three mobile eateries on Kaya Korona, Kaya Neerlandia and Kaya Caribe were closed because they failed to show valid permits.

Welcome to LVV OPEN DAY

Quiz: What does LVV stand for???
(see answer at end of column)

I admit, I've always enjoyed county fairs. Especially looking at all the animals and eating weird fair food and Bonaire's LVV day is right up that alley. Healthy goats and sheep are housed in clean, shady stalls and you can hand feed and pet them! Chickens of all sizes run around. In the multiple greenhouses you see growing crops of sweet potatoes, celery, swiss chard, pumpkins, onions, mint (where's the mojito?) and even peanuts! Weird food was a cactus soup with goat and funchi (made by famous island cook Gacha). Or dare to try chewing and spitting out the fibrous leaf of a smoked agave plant called a Coquito. Some 20 plants were roasted underground for three days and unearthed nice and hot and looking like artichokes on steroids. The hearts are totally edible and are sliced and eaten like meat in a sandwich. The supervision of this age-old Bonairean custom was handled by Rincon natives, Victor Janga known to all as Barba and his son Daymiro Janga.

But all that's just the beginning of what's happening down on the farm.

RENT A GARDEN/Agricultural SPACE with water provided. For \$1500/year you can have a 3000 square meter space of your own to give agriculture a try. So far, these are rented to individuals who are growing crops, raising goats for meat to sell onsite and raising red tilapia and plants in a symbiotic relationship. All you pay for is the rent.

Smaller gardens of 150 square meters are also available for \$10/month. These gardeners have to supply their own drip systems.

The water source is free because the land adjoins the WEB sewage treatment plant so the cleaned sewage is put to good use. The water yield today is 600-900 cubic meters a day and that is expected to double in two more years as more areas of the island are added to the sewage lines.



Writer Ginny Knight tries Gacha's one of a kind cactus soup with goat and peanuts

GARDEN WASTE TURNING INTO COMPOST. Piles and piles of palm tree branches and other garden duff line the side of the LVV entry road. While it looks like a dump site, this otherwise dumpable refuse is being baked, watered and mixed with chicken droppings to create a healthy, nitrogen rich compost for your garden. You can buy a large bag for just \$4.00.

In the future it may be possible for each household to contribute its compostable materials to this effort, just like we recycle other products.

The brains behind a lot of this ingenious agriculture effort is Maurice Adriaens. He is making amazing use of the 50 Hectare (123.50 acres) tract under his purview and is creatively approaching ways to inspire local ag-

ricultural growth. Maurice studied Agriculture in the Netherlands and is dedicated to these efforts. When I asked him about the smell..he said, "It's the smell of agriculture!"

There were food booths, drink booths (still hoping for a mojito), music, plant sales, organic remedy booths and health department recipes! We all love and need food in all its forms. LVV day is a great way to celebrate that shared humanity!

Story Ginny Knight
Photos Julie Morgan

LVV stands for Landbouw, Veeteelt and Visserij, in English: Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing.



Left: Daymiro Janga and his dad Victor "Barba" Janga of Rincon exhibited the smoking process of cooking Coquito (Agave). They buried in the ground for three days before unearthing it for LVV visitors to get a taste.

Right: LVV agriculture program educates locals on goat and sheep care. LVV has numerous goats and sheep including this one with the friendly smile



Bonaire's Sargassum Management Presented on International Podcast

STINAPA Marine Park Manager, Judith Raming has taken the Sargassum fight in Bonaire to an international audience. She was recently interviewed by the Sargassum podcast team to spread the word about Sargassum Management on Bonaire. Episode #60 can be listened to or watched on

<https://www.podpage.com/the-sargassum-podcast/>.

"We were delighted to have Judith as a guest. Her insights will help many people across the wider Caribbean and West Africa to better tackle the Sargassum crisis,"

said Dr. Franziska Elmer, founder and co-host of the podcast.

Raming shares her experience in Bonaire and how the National Marine Park, the team of rangers and the government collaborate in enforcement and policies. Joint efforts have helped not only financing activities but increased effectiveness to deal with the influx of Sargassum that occurs every year.

Sargassum threatens not only nature and public health, but also the local economy, fisheries and tourism. An all-inclusive approach is therefore the best way to han-

dle and manage its presence.

The Sargassum Podcast interviews a diverse range of stakeholders from different locations to highlight their knowledge, solutions or experiences with Sargassum. Episodes are released biweekly in English, Spanish and/or French.

The podcast is supported by RESEMBID, financed by the European Union and implemented by Expertise France - an agency that supports sustainable human development efforts in 12 Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). STINAPA

The Mighty Beak

by “Mel” McCombie

What makes a parrot a parrot? Morphologically, two things: zygodactylic feet (the two-way feet I discussed in an earlier column), and a hookbill. If you have ever been nipped by a parrot, I don’t need to tell you how powerful that beak can be!

So, what is a parrot’s hookbill? Its upper bill (rhinotheca) is curved, and though very strong, is not part of its skull, but independent, attached by a hinge, a powerful cranio-facial attachment that grows stronger as a chick grows into an adult. The underside of the upper bill has sharp cutting edges that help it gnash apart hard food. The smaller bottom bill (gnathotheca) is also separate from the skull, attached to the skull with a strong hinge, and is shaped kind of like a scoop. These two parts of the beak need to be aligned with each other. Both upper and lower are covered in a hard keratin shell. Together, they are far greater than the sum of their parts!

Raptors, like hawks and owls, also have curved beaks, but scientists do not consider them to be hookbills (though the falcon’s beak is very similar to a parrot’s, and the two may be related). I’m sure you have noticed how beaks differ. We can see an unusual beak adaptation on Bonaire. Flamingo beaks are similar in structure to duck bills, but curved downward, allowing it to filter water

with its head upside down. The hummingbirds we see here have long thin beaks that allow them to sip flower nectar. A trupial’s beak is shorter and more conical, ideal for eating seeds.

Parrot beaks, attached but not fused to their skulls, are also enormously powerful. Have you watched a Lora or prikichi open a nut? They can apply crushing force as needed and open up nuts with coatings as strong as almonds (or in the case of macaws, Brazil nuts). Large parrots have a bite force of 500-700 pounds per square inch; a small cockatiel’s bite force is around 70-90 psi. Our Lora’s bite force is around 400 psi, and a prikichi’s bite force is around 100-120 psi. Although parrots are not generally aggressive, they can use their powerful beaks defensively (as anyone nipped can tell you).



Parrot beaks are unusually sensitive to touch, with nerve endings around the back of the beak that allow it to evaluate matter to determine what kind of force to apply.



This Echo resident Lora is using his mighty beak to not only eat an almond but also hold on to the wire cage.

Photo Julie Morgan

Pet parrots often love to have their beaks gently rubbed, particularly where the beak and skull meet. My cockatiels loved getting “beak buffs” from me when they were very relaxed.

Our Lora’s beaks, like all parrots, continue to grow (just as our fingernails grow). Constant use keeps their beaks from over-growing, sort of like filing one’s nails. Captive parrots instinctively know that their beaks need to stay trimmed, and if one does not

supply beak activities—like the enrichment toys our ambassador parrots at Echo enjoy—a parrot will create its own beak activities, like chewing furniture.

And inside their amazing beaks, parrots have muscular tongues of unusual flexibility and strength. And in another amazing adaptation, parrot tongues have small bones in them! Their tongues can move food around with impressive dexterity.

In addition to eating, parrots use their beaks for climbing. In the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Biological Sciences (18 May 2022), I learned that a parrot beak is considered as a form of limb—that parrots engage in tripedal (or three-footed) locomotion. When you watch a Lora climb vertically or nearly vertically, they use both their feet to grip and their beaks to pull. And its beak is not just for balance—it digs in and allows the Lora to pull itself along. The Royal Society describes its power as “a propulsive third limb.” And this is unique to parrots, “an evolutionary novelty to Psittiformes” (the genus unique to parrots). How cool is that? Parrots are the only tripedal animals in the world! It’s just another reason to love these amazing creatures.



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

TCB plans a busy September

September 27 is World Tourism Day and September is Tourism Month. To celebrate, the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is going to keep those in Bonaire’s tourist industry busy the whole month long.

Saturday arrivals at BIA. Through September music and ambassadors in traditional dress will greet all arriving visitors at the Flamingo International Airport.

Bonaire Day on September 6. The government of Bonaire hosts a series of events. The annual Bonaire Bikers Club activities add to the celebration throughout the island.

Tourism Scavenger Hunt on September

23 for kids. See page 15.

The Capture Bonaire Photo Contest 2023. The contest will run for four weeks, August 28 until September 24. The top three winners will be selected and announced on September 26th, 2023 from all eligible entries on the website www.bonaireisland.com/photo-contest/.

Bonaire Dive Week in partnership with PADI, September 23 – 30. Visit padi.com/padiclubbonaire

TCB’s first Bonaire International Tourism Conference, September 25 – 30 welcomes international wholesalers, tour operators, travel agents, and tourism partners from Europe and North Ameri-

ca to Bonaire. On September 26 TCB is hosting a ‘Let’s Meet & Flamingo Business Speed-date’ event, where the island partners can meet or reconnect with prospective and current wholesalers, tour operators, travel agents, and tourism partners.

Third Annual Bonaire Tourism Summit. September 27 and 28. Themed: Preserving Our Hidden Gem, the summit brings our active tourism stakeholders and partners together to discuss the island’s future. For more information or to register, email marketing@bonaireisland.com. Registration is open until September 12, 2023.

Bonaire Wine Week. September 28 –

October 1, Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association and TCB in collaboration with wine education and certification provider WTOL Academy and Stichting Vakbekwaamheid Horeca (SVH), are organizing the first Bonaire Wine Week.

Taste of Bonaire. The Tourism Month activities will culminate on Saturday, September 30th, at the Taste of Bonaire event, themed Tourism and Youth.

For more information, please visit TCB’s events calendar on www.BonaireIsland.com (<https://bonaireisland.com/events-calendar/>) or send an email to marketing@bonaireisland.com.

Giving the Foodies another reason to come

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has announced culinary workshops designed to showcase Bonaire’s local culinary traditions. The workshops offer a behind-the-scenes look at how our local dishes are made.

TBC writes: “As part of the Tourism Recovery Plan, this initiative is another component aimed at creating an authentic cultural experience for visitors while providing local entrepreneurs with opportunities to showcase their skills and abilities.”



Presently the culinary workshops include: • an old-fashioned workshop offered at Museo Chichi’itan, Rincon; • two different plant-based nature workshops held at a kunuku. A breakfast and lunch workshop for the early risers, or an afternoon to dinner workshop; • a local brunch workshop (coming soon). The different workshops are shown on: <https://bonaireisland.com/culinary-workshop/>

Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

International Clean Up Day

When I began diving, in 1972, it was from a 40-passenger converted fishing boat, the Tradewinds, that took divers out from Miami. We'd travel down the Miami River, and head out for two dives on the reefs.

During the course of the day, Captain Bob usually had a beer or two. No one was the tiniest bit upset that the Captain was boozing it up while we were diving, but everyone was upset that he was tossing his empty bottles overboard. "It gives the little fishies a place to lay their eggs," he'd declare. "The fish did just fine all those years before bottles existed," we'd reply, to no avail.

The history of human debris in the sea is a recent one, because up until fairly recently (in the grand scheme of things), almost anything terrestrial that went in to the sea, would degrade and, essentially, disappear. I saw how this changed over a very few years on a site in Papua New Guinea in very protected water, just off a small village. Our Telita hosts called it a "muck" dive, because the bottom was very fine sand and mud. The animals we could find in that unpromising-looking area were amazing, and anything on the muck became an oasis that attracted other animals.

On our first visit, in 1991, the oases were things like tube anemones, rocks, tree branches, and one dugout canoe and a woven basket, each beyond repair. By our 1996 trip, the oases included rusted food cans and broken plastic and glass containers. For generations, trash that had been dropped into the water right off the village degraded naturally. In less than a decade, the area was changed forever.

When I came to Bonaire, in 1980, the trash items I found most often underwater, especially off Playa, were plastic

cups. These are much less common now, but I still see them occasionally. The main danger they present is to hermit crabs: if the cup is upright, hermit crabs cannot get out of it. In nature, there's nothing that a hermit crab can't get out of, but they can't swim (even without their shells), and they can't climb out of smooth-sided containers, including tires. I once emptied eleven hermit crabs out of a single cup!

It doesn't take much debris to harm marine animals, especially the incredibly vulnerable stony corals. One towel, or a t-shirt, or even a newspaper can smother to death a significant section of a coral colony. Any human debris can kill corals and other animals, sometimes more than once. Boards from docks, for example, can be roiled around in shallow waters, and crash into corals or sponges during every storm or wind reversal.

Back when the Dive Friends' Underwater Clean-Up was begun, it took place monthly – but they had to change it to quarterly because Bonaire's reefs don't have enough trash for monthly clean-ups! That's wonderful to hear, isn't it?

The problem with a debris-collecting schedule is that debris doesn't arrive underwater on schedule. When we see trash on a "regular" dive, it's easy to shove a cup or a ketchup packet into a pocket and bring it up, but what about debris that we can't bring out of the water right then? In many cases we can neutralize, to some extent, the harm the trash presents. For example, a newspaper can be balled up and shoved under the sand, where it will decompose without killing corals; bottles and cups can be turned on their sides or upside-down. Another choice is to remember where the debris is and collect it later. A third option is to inform Dive Friends: the site might be perfect for a Quarterly Clean Up, especially if there's a bunch of debris in one area.

If the debris is big or heavy, the BNMP should be notified so it can be dealt with properly, by the Rangers.

Fishing line is a separate issue, for two



Neck crabs usually cover themselves with living organisms, such as sponges. This one has covered itself so completely with tissue you can't see the crab at all, only its shape! Photo Dee Scarr

reasons. The first is that it's not dumped irresponsibly into the sea, it ends up there as a normal consequence of line fishing. The second reason is that marine turtles – all of whom are threatened with extinction – can become entangled in it and drown. That's why it's important for us to collect fishing line whenever we can, and with the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's (STCB) monthly fishing line clean up events. Joining the STCB has the advantage of good instruction in the ways to collect line, too. (It's so embarrassing to become entangled in the very line you're collecting...)

The existence of World Cleanup Day emphasizes how rudely we human beings are treating our planet.

In the Best of All Possible Worlds, people wouldn't trash the environment. We finally got Captain Bob to quit throwing his beer bottles overboard, by bringing them up again. A flyer, about the dangers of alkaline batteries to marine life, was distributed among fishermen and boaters at the North Pier in the late 1980's. More than 100 batteries were brought up the year before the flyer was distributed, and fewer than 15 were found the year after the distribution!

On the negative side, I've been sending emails to Silversea Cruises about

their glass dump on Bonaire, but so far have only learned that they've forwarded my letter to their Legal Department (!) – which hasn't responded. Soon, I'll communicate with the head of Royal Caribbean, which owns Silversea. There's got to be a way for Bonaire to get some compensation for a Silversea ship trashing our reefs.

Meanwhile, we're removing the glass, slowly but surely. We got Captain Bob to quit throwing his trash into the sea by the simple expedient of bringing it back to the boat. Maybe when we've collected all we can of the Silversea debris, we should return it to one of their ships... I have some other ideas, too; how about you?



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.

Yatu Bacu Trail officially opens September 9 with Fun Race

As you may have heard, there is a lot to do in cycling coming up.

A cycling club has been set up. Bonaire Baiskel Club and the Dutch government are working to promote cycling in general. We will have another Duo Xtreme on October 29 with a completely new route. Promoting cycling is also a part of cycling routes (trails). The Yatu Bacu route is completely marked out with wooden poles bearing the international mountain bike signs. It will be officially opened on September 9 with a Fun Race in the afternoon beginning at 4 p.m.

Information about the Fun Race

To get to the starting point, you drive north on Kaya NikiBoko which will turn into a dirt road. After plus or minus 1.5 km you will see a water tower. Turn left just before the tower and you will be immediately in front of the start. (Please note because of the opening the race time is Saturday afternoon.)

Something about the route

This fun race is the hardest of them all. Not because it is hard, but you have to think



as if you are going to ride the long route.

It goes as follows: Start at the starting place and follow the yellow line. At the top you will see a kind of crown, you have to drive it, so you go from yellow to red. After that you will automatically return to the yellow line. After a descent you come to a water tower. Here you will follow the red line again and eventually you will return to the

yellow route. From this point you continue to follow the yellow route to the finish. The first round of the total of three pieces is now ready. From there you will start the second round and follow the same instructions.

Any questions? Contact De Freewieler +599-717-8545; info@bonairextreme.com or stop by at Kaya Grandi 61;

Frank Böhm, Xtreme Bonaire

Calling All
Chefs and Professional Cooks



Koksclub Bonaire
Klub di Koki di Boneiru
Next Meeting -Mid-October
Venue - TBA
To join contact:
koksclubbonaire@gmail.com

Lady Bellaïs

continued from page 3

belly flop into the sea. Kids of all ages will love this.

You may have noticed this new sailboat, built in 2022, in the little village of Calaiba, Brazil as you pass the Harbour Village Marina because she's strikingly beautiful, large and tall. The Bella Bellaïs is a 60 foot (18 m) schooner with two masts standing 52 feet (16 m) tall. She's built of teak and ipe wood (Brazilian walnut, pronounced I-pa) which has a natural resistance to rot and other damage.

The concept for the Lady Bellaïs originated with Bonairean Nino Domacasse who hoped to return to Bonaire after working in Aruba for the last 23 years in tourism/sailing charters. He approached Debbie and Theo Bougie, owners of Bonaire Cruisers (the golf carts) suggesting a partnership to bring a new handmade boat from Brazil for sailing charters. The Bougies were on board with the idea, and Nino sailed 21 days from Brazil to bring



Captain Nino Domacasse and Senne Bougie at the helm. Photo Julie Morgan

the boat to its new home in Bonaire last December.

Nino is captain and part-time chef. He won "Best excursion in the Caribbean award" from Carnival Cruise line in 2017 in Aruba. The crew providing the fun and drinks is made up of Colombian

Alexander Ibanez who worked with Nino for seven years in Aruba and the Bougie's son, Senne. Nino's wife Marcella will join as head chef to complete family affair atmosphere with a lot of fun.

GET ONBOARD:

Bella Bites and Fun: Every Tuesday and Friday from 3 – 6 p.m. with open bar and beer, fancy appetizers, music, snorkeling (gear provided), swimming and the trapeze. Perfect to off gas after a vacation of diving offering one last memorable island experience and view of Bonaire - \$65 pp.

Bella Brunch – every Sunday

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. is actually a breakfast and lunch of seafood paella, potato salad and other specialties concocted by captain /chef Nino. And of course, an open bar; snorkel with tour guide, gear, rope swing and music \$80 pp

The Lady Bellais may be engaged for private parties, birthdays, weddings, business /corporate parties, Christmas and New Year's events. She will serve Carnival Cruise lines on days other than Tuesday, Thursdays and Sunday.

Book direct from WhatsApp or email info@ladybellais.com; For more information visit www.ladybellais.com or call +599-796-3232.

Ginny Knight / Photos Julie Morgan

Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Is deferring FinBES for a bit a better idea?

Almost twenty years ago, I was employed by the then 'Eilandgebied Bonaire'. I worked at the Finance Department, and was supposed to develop a system of 'Interne Controle'. Audit. My presence there didn't last long, though.

It wasn't great fun in the first place. The job was created by the Dutch department of Kingdom Affairs, and nobody in Bonaire government circles really was interested in someone developing a system that allowed auditors to browse the traces the apparatchiks left in the island administration. So, in short, they decided to forbid me to do my job, to contact colleagues from other departments, things alike. That's how it worked in those days.

Intimidate and terrorize.

To kill the time (you just can't imagine how long a work day can be doing nothing. Or maybe you can. I don't know what you do for a living) I started leafing through the files laying around, randomly at first, but gradually more focused on specific topics. The sitting ducks and the low hanging fruit, as auditors call it.

A rather startling world unfolded before my eyes, and, not relying on my memory to save the facts that I discovered from oblivion, I started to copy a number of the most remarkable examples of what I thought were 'unlawful or inefficient use of Bonaire's resources', to use a term common in accountancy. In a matter of days, the pile of paper I'd gathered was a foot high. Obviously, everybody was using the insular treasure trove for whatever they needed for their personal wellbeing.

A formal statement of approval by a real accountant seemed a faraway dream in those days. Adherence to budgetary principles hardly existed. There – almost literally – was a box of cash from which everything was paid, starting with wages of government staff, while everything else could wait.

Wondering why Bonaire's infrastructure is in such a sorry condition? Now you know. Car repairs, expensive Italian suits and shoes, home improvement, electronics, jobs-for-friends, fun trips to fun countries, it was all there. Corruption, we'd like to call it. But most of the time it wasn't. The Netherlands Antilles' national accountant said, in a review, 'they surely take good care of themselves'.

But, since then, integrity has set in.

Last June, headlines appeared on various websites, boasting the first approving report in the history of Bonaire. The finance deputy, Jolinda Craane, stated:

"... the approved auditor's report is the great result of the efforts of our employees. Over the past few months, they have jointly ensured with great energy and dedication that we were able to take another step towards a sustainable financial management for Bonaire in the interests of our residents". (Bonaire.nu)

Now six weeks later the first questions rose. The unbudgeted spending of seven million dollars without the Island Council's consent raised an eyebrow or two, and the contracted auditor had to bend over backwards to explain the overspending in conflict with the budget rights regulated in FinBES.

So, no approval. We have to wait a couple of more years. To correct the budgetary anomaly, an 'indemnity decision' was issued two days later, a license to strip someone, or an entity, of the responsibility for an unlawful action. Let me emphasize: an indemnity decision does not legalize an action.

What we see here is nothing new. Unbudgeted use was, in the old days, rather a rule than an exception.

I remember a case of budgetary freewheeling I encountered in one of the files, that slightly looked like corruption. In fact it was a very efficient way to acquire votes in a pre-election period, showing – as a political party – your friendliest face towards your electorate without issuing refrigerators.

One of the minor candidates visited, during the evening hours, as many snacks as he could. In those days snacks were still mostly in the hands of Bonaireans.

During his wanderings, the candidate spent – every night – a sum, varying from about a hundred, till up to about three hundred guilders on beer and related alcoholic beverages. At first, I thought he had a serious drinking problem, but after having leafed through a few dozen declarations from his hand, I realized that A. no man can drink the amount he claimed without serious physical consequences, and, so, probably, B. he was buying rounds to suckle the crowds hanging around snacks during the night to harvest extra votes for the upcoming elections.

His declarations were all signed by an authorized deputy (belonging to the same party, of course), and paid out to him. Although the entire process was formally completed more or less correctly (the right forms, allocated to a plausible budget, authorized by an entitled apparatchik, things like that), it smells, nevertheless, slightly of corrupt behavior.

The creativity in twisting the budgetary rules here is admirable. The 'unlawful or inefficient use of the insular resources' less so.

Complying to budgetary rules isn't a hell of a job. It's just discipline. Will the successors of the people that kicked me out almost twenty years ago, have learned, and internalized some kind of budgetary rigor? Why do they still need indemnity decisions to survive? Makes you curious, doesn't it?

So, concluding: Is it a good idea to loosen the ties of external financial supervision like FinBES suggests? Wouldn't that be like rewarding deviant behavior? Tell me why they deserve it...



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.

Ambulift aids travelers

Bonaire International Airport (BIA) is now equipped with an ambulift that allows passengers with reduced mobility (PRM) to board or deboard middle or large body aircraft. This includes all U.S. carriers, KLM and TUI.

No longer does a PRM passenger need to be carried up or down the aircraft's stairs by strong bodied Bonaire aircraft personnel. Traveling to and from Bonaire just got a whole lot easier and safer and could open the door to a new world of travel for many.

The ambulift is made in Ireland by Mallaghan and came at no small expense to our airport.

BIA director Maarten van der Scheer said, "Actually the responsibility should have been by the airlines, but BIA took responsibility and initiative to buy it ourselves. Each airline pays BIA a small fee; it's not the passenger's responsibility. I can't say how much but it cost several \$100,000 dollars."

The airport itself is not operating the ambulift but BIA employees need to know how to operate it. The employees of the handling companies are responsible for its operation. Some 8-10 personnel / ground handlers have been trained to date.

Airport duty manager Gregorio Matthew said, "The handlers have also been helped with the new lift because their working conditions improve as a result of using the lift."

The ambulift can hold up to 15 passengers and 10 wheelchairs but can be expanded for extra capacity. Once inside it PRM passengers have a clear view all around. The ambulift has comfortable seating, handrails and separate storage for the wheelchairs.

The ambulift can handle a load up to 500 kg (1100 lbs.) and lift it as high as 10m (32 ft). It also has a high wind tolerance. The operator/driver controls the ambulift from the cabin. The entire operation is monitored by safety checks that prevent the ambulift from operating unless everything is working perfectly. The doors will



Aboard the ambulift L-R are: Maarten van der Scheer, Mito Bulbaai, Daniel Francees, Gregorio Matthew

not open for the passengers if the machine is not in the correct position. The platform can't be raised and pulled out unless the ambulift is locked in place. The monitor that shows the operator/driver what the safety sensors are reporting has to be working. The vehicle cannot be positioned too close to the aircraft. It cannot be closer than 5 cm to the aircraft and it cannot touch it. The platform has to be down so it can be controlled.

In response to the complaints regarding the delay in acquiring the ambulift, van der Scheer said, "We have recognized the complaints from MiVabo. There were

delays in delivery due to supply chain disruptions during Covid. We had to wait for the engine to be produced by someone else. It took a lot of patience. We plan to have a tour with MiVaBo next week and we hope they like the solution."

PRM passengers can request special assistance when booking their ticket to make use of Bonaire's new ambulift service.

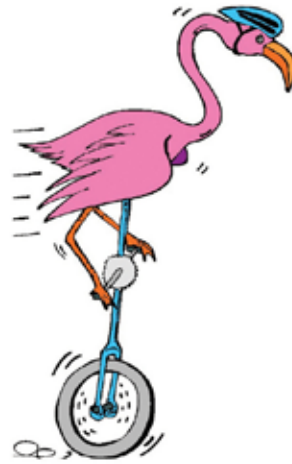
See *Making Bonaire Accessible* by Ria Evers-Dokter on page 4 for more information on BIA's new ambulift.

Julie Morgan



Inside the ambulift are Gregorio Matthew, Mito Bulbaai, Daniel Francees and Fitipaldi from *The Boneriano*. Photo Julie Morgan

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TRAINING DATES

- 13 & 14 September (3 spots left)
- 15 & 16 September (6 spots left)
- 17 & 18 September (8 spots left)
- 22 & 24 September (8 spots left)
- 23 & 25 September (8 spots left)



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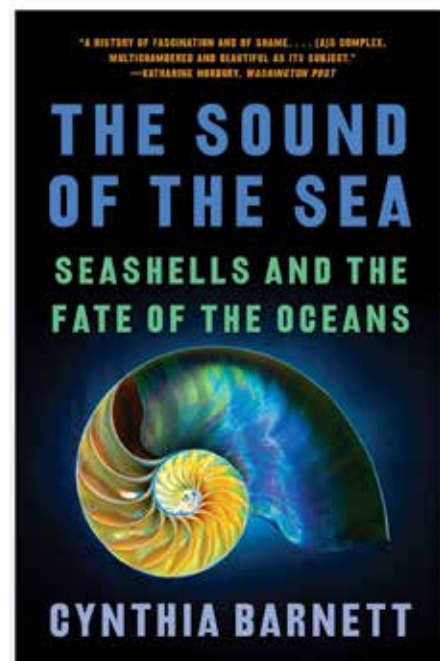
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Buckley's Books

by George Buckley

As a marine biologist and environmental consultant, I'm often asked 'What's a good book about the oceans'? There are many gems, some old, some new. For several years I have been writing suggestions for my students and for a club that meets at Harvard University. Someone at the Rum Runners Habitat bar suggested that I share them with The Reporter. It is something that I should have done long ago. Here is the first of what will be a monthly contribution.



The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans by Cynthia Barnett

Reading at once like a novel and a treatise, Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans is an expertly written tour de force of global Conchology, shell collecting and Malacology, the study of mollusks. Nominated for several awards, it creatively blends the long and rich history of shell collecting with the equally lengthy history of the science of Malacology. Barnett tells the story of scientific work with mollusks and adds to these vignettes dozens of interesting short pieces about shell collectors over the centuries.

She documents the excitement of the period in the 1600 and 1700's when "Conchylomania" ruled Holland and much of Europe as sailing ships of the Dutch East India Company returned with ocean gems with colors, patterns, size

and spines never before seen. (at the same time Tulipmania was raging!). So intense was the interest in rare seashells that many sold for more than paintings by the Dutch Masters.....a Matchless Cone was purchased for six times that of a Vermeer!

Dozens of extinct and living mollusks from the ammonites to the giant Tridacna clams are included with short stories about their use in art, science, commercial harvest, community food sources, local culture and religion or attractiveness to collectors. Special focus is given to the Cones, Cowries, Murex, Scallops and Strombus with a host of unique stories about them, including Pliny's "The Nature of the Murex and the Purple" about the Royal Purple dye so popular and valuable at that time. Other stories include the fall of the Queen Conch population, the poisonous cone snails and their medical uses and the role of Money cowries and Quahog Wampum in barter as well as many others.

An award winning environmental journalist, Barnett documents how environmental and overharvest issues have impacted mollusk species the world over. This has proved a bellwether for the health and future of the world's oceans as improved environmental and fisheries management policies are implemented. Individuals can make informed decisions about their own environmental and collecting practices.

If you have any interest in seashells, marine biology or natural history this is an engaging read that provides fascinating stories on each and every page.



George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don (who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.

Miss Bonaire 2022, Ruby Pouchet, will participate in the Miss Grand International 2023 pageant in Vietnam in October. Described as a beauty with brains, grace, and charisma, Pouchet will be a worthy representative of the island.

This will be the 11th anniversary of the Miss Grand International. According to the press release, "Miss Grand International is one of the most important, influential and popular pageants in the world with its emphasis on promoting peace and the countries and territories competing."



Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Understanding your pelvic floor

The pelvic floor is a group of muscles, ligaments and fascia that's connected to the pelvic bones holding the abdominal organs, it helps with urination, defecation, sexual function and posture. It supports the bladder, the uterus and bowel.

Healthy muscles are strong and flexible, so the pelvic floor is needed to prevent incontinency of bladder and bowel, prolapse and to contribute in sexual function and correct body posture.

When those muscles are dysfunctional it could be that they are too tight or they can be too weak. The pelvic floor can be weakened by pregnancy, childbirth, prostate cancer treatment, obesity and chronic constipation.

It is hard to recognize whether one's pelvic floor is healthy or not because it's not a muscle that we were ever trained to recognize. Only a specialist can make a correct diagnosis but sometimes we have some clues that something is not working well.

If your pelvic floor is short and tight you can have symptoms of urgent frequent urination or sometimes have leakage. It can be that the pelvic floor is so tense that it makes it difficult to completely vacate the bladder, or that the bladder is constantly stimulated so it feels like there's more to go but there is nothing.

Regarding sexual intercourse, if the pelvic muscles are very tense you can have pain with penetration, erection or ejaculation. Regarding the digestive function you can have constipation. To correct a tight pelvic floor, a physical therapist can teach you certain exercises. A good example can be found in yoga with the happy baby pose which stretches and elongates those muscles.

If your pelvic floor is too weak, it can very often cause urinary incontinence or leakage. Kegel exercises are typically prescribed specifically for stress urinary incontinence and leakage that occurs after coughing or sneezing. Kegels are also prescribed to women with pelvic organ

prolapse and for men who have had a prostatectomy who subsequently develop leakage.

Kegel exercises train the muscles that you use when you urinate. First you need to identify them. Imagine that you are urinating and you try to stop the flow. Don't do it during real urination because it can cause dysfunction.

Learn to do the movements while lying down first. Identify the muscles, squeeze and lift slowly making sure you can release fully each time. When you know you can lift and let go, then try to hold. Hold firmly for about 5 seconds and repeat up to 10 times. You can also try to perform quick, short, strong squeeze and lift. Repeat 10 times. Again, make sure you can release fully each time. Once you master the movements you can do them while sitting and after that while standing.

Start gradually to build up a daily routine. Don't overdo it in the beginning as you might create soreness and tightness. Just like any sort of exercise you do you don't want to start doing a hundred of them.

Nowadays a lot of people use kegels because improving the pelvic floor musculature can lead to more intense pelvic floor contractions during orgasm, but use caution not to overdo it as this can lead to a very tense pelvic floor.

Remember if you have any symptoms like painful urination or erections, pain with ejaculation or any of the symptoms described above go and see a urologist that can assess your pelvic floor



Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

Ramso Coffy, the latest recipient of a Bonaire tourism scholarship will continue his studies at the MBO Bonaire. He said, "From a young age, I wanted to be a flight attendant. Knowing that I couldn't study this on the island, I chose to study 'All-around tourism medewerker.' Within one year, I have learned a lot, from how to sell a product to give a tour with real cruise tourists."

TCB and Guardian Group Fatum's scholarship program seeks to



develop a thriving workforce for Bonaire's tourism industry. To learn more about the initiative visit www.bonairescholarship.com. (L-R) Miles Mercera, Ramso Coffy and Cristely Cranston.

August's Nos Zjilea



Loeki Nicolaas from OLB and Sharine Loozen Janga of Bonaire Public Health at Nos Zjilea. Photo Julie Morgan

The August edition of Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei was nothing short of inspirational with a major focus of growing sustainably and eating healthy food.

Despite the heat the free cultural event on August 26 drew more than 350 attendees with the theme "Eat what the kunuku produces". Inspirational presentations were given by well-known kunuku farmer and environmentalist Onnie Emerenciana, Department of Health and Welfare, Nature Cooking School and LVV (Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries). In addition, Greenpeace gave the crowd the latest information on their climate justice efforts for Bonaire.

Music from Farley's Entertainment and JC & Friends was interspersed between the presentations to provide guests to get up and move or enjoy the cultural dance team of Monique and Donnie Winklaar.

Mangazina de Rei's Izain Mercera led the crowd through the line-up providing English translations to the Papiamentu presentations.

Onnie Emerenciana started from the ground up providing information about preparing garden soil prior to the rainy season with ideas to make compost and improve Bonaire's soil for a garden.

One suggestion was to set aside a place in the yard for a compost pile and put all

the leaves and branches there after a yard cleanup. Add water occasionally and in six months the result is a special soil with vitamins from natural micro-organisms. The recipe: mix the compost soil with one wheelbarrow full of a mixture of cow, chicken, donkey or goat manure. But don't use too much otherwise it can hurt your plants due to high acidity.

LVV's Marlon Evers demonstrated a soil mixture with coconut husks, a goat, donkey and chicken manure mixture and for extra vitamins add MPK a special vitamin sold at LVV.

Saeed Lourens of Nature Cooking School impressed the crowd with a live cooking demonstration and tasting of *Sticks di berehein* (eggplant sticks) and *Pancake de spinazi* (spinach pancakes). The school is working with the Department of Health in a new campaign *Sembr awe pa kosecha' manan* (Start today to get healthy tomorrow). (See story on page 13.) Recipes and information about the 'healthy food' program were available at a table manned by project manager Sharine Loozen Janga and Loeki Nicolaas of OLB. (See the pancake recipe and a muffin recipe on page 16.)

LVV and Onnie are also involved in the project and provided informational tables at the event.

Nos Zjilea, continued on page 17



Greenpeace advocates encourage everyone to sign the petition to urge the Netherlands to take action for climate justice in Bonaire. Photo Julie Morgan

Sembr 'awe pa kosecha' manan

Just in time for back to school and fall planting season, Bonaire's Department of Public Health has initiated a program to promote a healthier lifestyle.

At the most recent Nos Zjilea and LVV Open Day, Public Health's Sharine Loozen Janga said, "We're trying to promote veggies and fruit as a part of a healthy lifestyle for all ages. The name of the project means 'Plant today and Sow tomorrow.' Those who invest in today will have something in the future."

The idea is to get people to plant their own food as they did in the past. During the last 20-30 years, Bonaire's supermarkets expanded, more food was imported and it was simply easier to buy food rather than grow it yourself. The art of gardening, farming and eating healthily was lost.

Janga said, "We want to bring back that ability [of gardening], it's healthier, cheaper and we're not only promoting health but fighting poverty. We want to make food accessible to everyone and we don't want people to tell us it's too expensive."

Although a lot of people are interested in growing their own food, water is a problem for many on Bonaire. New gardeners will have to be taught to recycle water to use it effectively.

This five-phase healthy living program actually got its start in 2013. It has received a lot of support from local experts: Nolly Oleana, Onnie Emerenciana, Maurice Adriaens, Danilo Christiaan, Heleen Quartel and Sherwin Pourier. Each person is actively involved in the project providing the expertise and help needed to make it succeed.

Phase one has been realized. It put greenhouses in 10 schools. The greenhouses are incorporated into the curriculum and used to teach lessons in health and agriculture. Interns from Holland are working with the concept now.

The school kids as early as group one are already receiving instruction. Onnie Emerenciana, a kunuku farmer, has been teaching agriculture in the school greenhouses and in the barios. He is heading up the pilot project for a huge greenhouse in Rincon and assisting with another at Mangazina di Rei and LVV.



Saeed Lourens of Nature Cooking School at August's Nos Zjilea Photo Julie Morgan

Janga explained that a lot of health goals can be reached simply by getting people moving. Working in a garden or green environment is good for your physical and mental well-being. Gardening relieves stress and gives a feeling of accomplishment.

"We want the whole population of Bonaire to plant their own food and we can all eat it. LVV is organizing and implementing planting by certain groups with the food bank. Plenchi Trabou, the work program, is putting people to work and can provide food at a low price. It is a win-win effect," said Janga.

The *Plant today and Sow tomorrow* campaign is publishing a healthy cookbook with 13 recipes made from ingredients produced on Bonaire. The free recipe book will be available soon for free in Papiamentu.

For more information about the program contact:

sharine.loozen@bonaigov.com

Story / photo Julie Morgan

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What's Happening

Animal Shelter: Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

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

Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon: Tues.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 8-noon

Library: Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Gramel 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. Adults \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. www.onlinebibliotheek.nl

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

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market.): Pakus is closed until we find a new location. We can no longer accept donations because all our containers are full including at the Shelter

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	Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Dia di Rincon. Most offices and businesses are closed.
Sunday, September 10	Feliz Dia di Rincon at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino. FREE. Please bring family and friends 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. to the Pureocean Garden. Join us and celebrate with traditional food, fun and entertainment:
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Marshe di Rincon. The Rincon Market takes place once a month on a day that has a cruise ship.
Friday, September 15	MoltenWolf Glass Quarterly Art Talk with Glass Artist Jeff Wolf – 6 – 9 p.m. at MoltenWolf Glass moltenwolfglass@gmail.com
Saturday, September 16	Tennis Doubles Tournament See page 15.
Sept. 28-Oct. 5	Bonaire Culinaire. Fall edition. Use this 15-day event to discover the wide variety of restaurants Bonaire has to offer. Bonaire's culinary hotspots have created a 3-course menu for only \$39.50 per person. https://bonaire-culinaire.com
Saturday, September 23	TCB's scavenger hunt. For ages 9 - 12. See page. 15 MoltenWolf Glass Pop-up Gallery event. 9:30 – 5:30 with Artist Laurie Smith of Inspouration Art @Inspouration.art
Starts Saturday, September 23	Free Tennis Lessons for kids every Saturday. See page 15.
September 23 - 30	Dive Into Bonaire Week. PADI Club & TCB. Guided dives with local experts, night dives, post-dive festivities and presentations. To learn more visit padi.com/padiclubbonaire
September 27 - 28	Tourism Summit. See page
Thursday, September 28	Bubbles & Bubbles. Group dive followed by wine tasting. Offered by Dive Friends Bonaire at Dive Inn. See page 15.
Sept. 28 - Oct. 1	Bonaire Wine Week.
Saturday, September 30	Taste of Bonaire 2023 (Tourism Edition) Starts at 6 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
Saturday, October 7	FREE lionfish hunt. See page 15.
October 9 - 13	Regatta Week.

Deadlines

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

TCB's September deadlines: Submit photos for contest by Sept. 24 • Sign up for scavenger hunt by Sept. 13 • Tourism Summit register by Sept 12 • Submit Innovation application before Sept. 14

Events, Meetings, Sports

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

Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction at all.

Art Gallery Sobremesa Bonaire reopened its doors on September 1 after a brief summer break. Opening hours are Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. and Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10.

Beach Tennis Bonaire Kaminda Djabou (behind Budget Marine). Open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

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

Cyclovia Kids Street Park Wilhelminaplein 4 - 7 p.m. Free monthly event. Children of all ages can bike, scooter, skate or skateboard. Expect a bouncy castle, music and a hot dog cart. First Sunday of the month: 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.

Free Tennis Lessons for kids age 6 - 12. Every Saturday. Courts at Eddy's. Email info@bonairetennisassociation.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bonairetennis/> Paul Ruijs +599 782 4569.



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



Manta Monday - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Presentations. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 4 - VIP Diving; Sept. 11 - Toucan Diving; Sept. 18 & 25 - Divi Resort; Tuesdays Sept. 19 & 26 Toucan Diving. Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook .Email: Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org



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



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

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Until September 30	Free access to Selibon landfill. Barrio clean ups. Selibon is cleaning up the neighborhoods by removing branches and bushes that block roads; collecting waste along the roads and placing large waste containers for residents to deposit their trash. See Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063693935009
Sunday, Sept. 10	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. . https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Saturday, Sept. 16	Fishing Line Clean up at North pier. 9 a.m. at Dive Inn. Visit https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/ or E-mail cepa@bonaireturtles.org .See page 15.

Tentative cruise ship schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. September 13	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6630
Mon. September 18	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	0700-1700	North	2500
Wed. September 20	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. September 21	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852
Wed. October 18	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. October 19	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852
	CELEBRITY SUMMIT	0800-1800	North	2450
Sun. October 22	NORWEGIAN JOY	1300-2000	South	3804
Thurs. October 26	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	South	2668
Sun. October 29	WORLD VOYAGER	0830-2100	North	172
Tues. October 31	WORLD VOYAGER	0830-2200	North	172

Tennis Anyone?



Jayden, 5 years old, takes a swing. Photo from BLTB
Info at: <https://www.facebook.com/Bonairetennis/>

Several activities have been organized beginning in September and October by The Bonaire Tennis Bond (BLTB) to stimulate the sport of tennis on the island.

Free tennis clinics for youth. From September 23, free tennis clinics for youth ages 6-12 will be given every week. The lessons are presented by professional tennis teachers every Saturday morning from 9 and 11 a.m. on the courts by Eddy's restaurant at Sand Dollar. All children are welcome.

Train-the-Trainer program for adults. BLTB will also organize tennis lessons for students next school year. We are still looking for adult volunteers interested in tennis to teach for an hour a week. During Regatta week October 9 - 13, we are organizing a Train-the-Trainer program in collaboration with the International Tennis Federation (ITF), in which the volunteers are trained to give tennis lessons to starting youth players. Any adult can sign up for this course. It is not a requirement that you can play tennis well.

A Double Fun tennis tournament for adults is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 on the courts at Eddy's. Players can participate at any level, from beginner to advanced. For more information and registration, for the children, adults and tournament: email info@bonairetennisassociation.com. Or call Paul Ruijs +599 782 4569



Bubbles from diving meet the bubbles of champagne

As part of Bonaire Wine Week September 28 – October 1, Dive Friends Bonaire at Dive Inn is offering double the bubbles with Bubbles & Bubbles, a wine tasting event where the bubbles of diving meet the bubbles of champagne.

Dive Friends in house dive instructor and sommelier Zac is host at the September 28 event. Guests can taste three different sparkling wines or champagnes accompanied by tasty bites.

The event begins at 2:45 p.m. followed by a group dive and presentation at 4:30 p.m. The tasting gets underway at 5:15 p.m. with sparkling wines, champagnes and snacks from the sponsors of Bonaire Wine Week, Wine Factory, Artisan Bakery Bonaire and Caribbeataly.

Tickets are \$34 to taste three sparkling wines and \$54 for three champagnes. Sign up is at Yellow Submarine – cash only.

Go back in time to 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

Tourism Scavenger Hunt

Free TCB Tourism Scavenger Hunt on September 23. To participate, groups of five children must be formed, accompanied by an adult aged 21 or older.

During the scavenger hunt, the children will visit different tourist and historical places. At the different stops they must complete fun activities and challenges to earn points. After the hunt, the participants receive lunch and a goody bag from TCB. The group with the most points and arriving within the set time will be the winner of the quest (announced at Taste of Bonaire).

The last day to register at TCB is Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Please contact Angelo Domacasse 717 – 8322 or Jamiene Melaan, coordinator of the scavenger hunt, 782 – 5698

Lionfish Hunt

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

STCB fishing line clean up

You can register now to join our FLP dive on Saturday September 16, for World Clean Up Day, at the North Pier. Meeting time is 9 a.m. at the Dive Inn. We will be hosted by Dive Friends Bonaire who will also kindly sponsor our air tanks (INT). Thanks Dive Friends! Please remember to bring your

dive qualification cards, Marine Park tag, shears/line cutters and mesh bag. Permission has been granted by the Harbour Master but please note that diving under this pier is entirely at your own risk. We realize that the North Pier is part of a red area on the contamination map of STINAPA. Please remem-

ber to use the STINAPA regulations and guidelines for the rinsing procedure after the dive and to limit your dives to one area per day. Would you like to join? Please e-mail to cepa@bonaireturtles.org. We hope to see you there!

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Frangipani

When walking around my garden I see all the plants looking lifeless because of the hard sun beating down on them everyday. Only one plant looks healthy, nice and green - the frangipani. This plant grows here on Bonaire in many gardens. It is like a little tree with a lot of stems. The interesting thing is that it can withstand the drought here perfectly. It has a white milky juice in the whole plant so it stores liquid against the drought. And the drier it is, the more flowers it bears. There are 11 types of this plant in different colors. The most well known one is plumeria alba with white flowers.

On Bonaire I also see the red - purple one, the white one with a yellow heart and then the plumeria rubra with white - purple, which I have in my garden. When the plant flowers, each stem has a beautiful bunch of flowers. After the tree drops its leaves, it starts to bear flowers and this stage can last for months. The flowers have a sweet, exotic smell that is a combination of vanilla with lemon. This intense aroma makes you think of ripened tropical fruit. The smell is meant to trigger the senses and give a relaxing feeling. Frangipani is native to the Americas but one can find it in many other places. The tree can grow to 8 meters in height and has a lot of stems. Because of the shade it gives when it is full of leaves, I hang baskets with other plants on the stems. Its strong, sweet, romantic smell also attracts birds and butterflies.

One can make many plants from cuttings. But before putting it into soil, let it lay a while to rest and get rid of the milky juice. If you plant the cuttings with the juice, they will rot. Be careful with this milky juice, as it is



poisonous. Plant in a big container or straight into the soil. For a while you will not notice any growth and the cutting will drop all its leaves. Slowly you'll see in the top of the cutting the first leaf appear. This plant does not like a lot of water so a little bit a week is enough. The tree is a true survivor and can live for hundreds of years.

Frangipani can also grow from seeds. Sow the seeds in a small container. After a few weeks the young plants will pop up. Keep them out of the hot sun then when big enough plant them into the soil or bigger containers.

Frangipani is the national flower and holy tree in Laos. It's called Dok Jampa and means eternity. One will always see a frangipani plant in front of a Buddha temple and it is mentioned in many of their poems and songs.

In Ayurvedic healing, frangipani is used for wounds and cures. In Hawaii the flowers are used for celebrations and made into leis to welcome guests.

In the Caribbean the milky juice is used for rheumatism and the leaves can treat bruising and swollen parts of the body. Frangipani essential oil is well-known for its sensual smell and combines with sandalwood and magnolia in the popular Nag Champa frankincense. The oil is also well known for its antibacterial and antiseptic properties, for treating fungus and promoting energy.

If you are looking for an easily maintained plant that can survive the extreme drought of Bonaire and that the iguanas are not interested in, then the frangipani is the answer.

And you don't need to go all the way to Hawaii to dress yourself with a frangipani flower necklace, because we have the beautiful flowers right here complete with the romantic exotic perfume right here on Bonaire. So plant a frangipani tree. Just do 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.

Recipes from: Plant today - Sow tomorrow (See page 13)

Swiss Chard Muffins

Ingredients: 2 ½ cups of Swiss Chard (Warmus) • 3 eggs • ½ cup of cheese, grated 40+ • 1/3 medium bell pepper, chopped into small pieces • 1/3 medium onion, chopped into small pieces (or 2 leeks chopped into small pieces) • Garlic powder • A little sea salt • A little olive oil (not extra virgin)

Preparation

1. Heat the oven to 180° C (356 F)
2. Steam the Swiss chard in a little bit of water for about 5 minutes, then use a strainer to drain the water.
3. Rub a little olive oil in the muffin tray with 12 cups.
4. Whisk the eggs, then add the grated

cheese, bell pepper, onion, Swiss chard, sea salt, and ground black pepper to taste.

5. Stir all the ingredients with a wooden spoon in a bowl and mix them well.

6. Divide the mixture into the muffin tray with 12 cups.

7. Place the muffins in the oven and let them bake for 20 minutes.

8. After 20 minutes, insert a fork into a muffin to check if it comes out dry. If the muffin is dry, you can take the tray out of the oven.

9. Serve the muffin on a plate garnished with salad leaves and grated carrot.

10. If you desire a different flavor, you can add smoked salmon to the ingredients.

© Roelton Thode Photography



Spinach pancake

Ingredients: Two handfuls of fresh spinach • 2 eggs • ¾ cup of almond milk • 2 cups of oats • 2 bananas • 1 large mango, chopped • 2 teaspoons of baking powder • ½ teaspoon of cinnamon powder • 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract • Coconut oil

Preparation:

1. Put all the ingredients into a blender, except for the coconut oil, and blend them together until they form a pancake batter.
2. After a pan has heated up, lower the heat and coat the pan with a little coconut oil.
3. Pour in a small quantity of the batter and cook the pancakes on each side.
4. Place them on a dish.
5. Serve with banana slices and chopped mango.

© Roelton Thode Photography

TCB offers \$10,000 investment for best tourism project

Visionary individuals, innovators, businesses, and organizations are invited to compete in The Tourism Innovation Project sponsored jointly by TCB and Chamber of Commerce (KvK). The project is an invitation to help reimagine, reinvent, and redefine tourism in our beloved Bonaire. Aspiring entrepreneurs, established businesses, and passionate individuals are all welcome to participate. "With a bold vision in mind, the project seeks to uncover innovative concepts that will transform how visitors experience our island," according to the press release.

Registration for the project is now open, and people are encouraged to register before September 14th. They will complete the sign-up form and submit it with a Sedula, a CV, and a summary and promotional letter detailing their proposed idea.

Registered applicants will subsequently participate in a mandatory workshop where they will refine their ideas and enhance their presentation skills. They will pitch their idea to a committee of local experts and professionals who will assess each project and its potential impact. The ultimate winner will be awarded \$10,000 startup money to invest in their project. WJ2

For comprehensive information and to submit an application visit:

<https://bonaireisland.com/tip/>

TCB/DMR

Piskabon fishing tournament a success

Piskabon Bonaire's first ever fishing tournament on September 2 attracted 21 teams and a total of 44 participants.

Fisherman headed out as early as 12 midnight to catch sustainable fish only: tuna, wahoo, dorado, barracuda and yellow tail.

All registered fishermen received a goodie bag from STINAPA that included a sustainable water bottle, knife, fishing line, line weights, plastic tub, jug of marine chlorine to clean the bilge against SCTLD (stony coral tissue loss disease) and a STI-NAPA branded rash guard.

Piskabon president Ernest "Martin" DeLanoy was pleased with the outcome of the day. The fishing organization with some 80 members is still growing. They hope to preserve Bonaire's fishing traditions and culture while protecting the marine life that has been a source of food for centuries.

A young man of 10 joined his dad, keeping alive the centuries old tradition of families who fish. And two ingenious 15-year-olds joined the tournament in a Sunfish. They converted the Sunfish into a fishing boat by rowing themselves through the water.

All three kids received a \$50 gift card and the two 15 year olds also received a safety kit for their boat from Piskabon.

Piskabon Torneo di Pesca was organized in cooperation with SKAL, Indebon and STINAPA. Prizes included: cooler cooling ice blocks, 15 amp engine, life jacket and marine dry boxes in addition to a lot of gift cards. Prizes were donated by Budget Marine and STINAPA Bonaire.

For more information about Piskabon Bonaire visit their Facebook page or email Piskabon@gmail.com.

(Apologies to Ernest DeLanoy for publishing his name wrong in the last issue.)

Story / photo Julie Morgan



Ludson Craane and Gidione Bart with their 23 kilo wahoo.

Prizes were awarded to winners for biggest size, weight and most fish caught. PISKABON WINNERS:

Small boat under 18 ft:

Large tuna – 4.06 kg Marlon Nicolaas
Large dorado – 2.6 kg Francisco Margarita
Large wahoo – 18.5 kg Marlon Nicolaas
Large yellowtail snapper – 6.8 kg Rogelio Dortalina
Large barracuda – 2.95 kg . Geert Heijnen
Most kilos of fish: 46.10 kg Marlon Nicolaas & Maguel Nicolaas

Large boat over 18 ft:

Tuna – 7.45 kg Ryan Hassell
Dorado – 4.20 kg Ryan Hassell
Wahoo – 23.10 kg Ludson Craane
Yellowtail snapper – 2.2 kg Alex Martis
Barracuda – 8.70 kg Enfi Thomas
Most kilos of fish: 46.6 – Ryan Hassell

August's Nos Zjilea, *continued from page 13*

Churmer Bomba of Greenpeace Bonaire provided information and status on the campaign Climate Justice for Bonaire. In May residents of Bonaire and Greenpeace launched legal action against the Netherlands for failure to protect Bonaire against the impact of climate change. Recently a final letter was sent and an invitation to have a conversation as no action has been taken. The Dutch government has until the end of September to respond otherwise Greenpeace will take them to court.

Bomba used the example of the island Vanuatu where the water is rising 2 cm per week. Research shows Bonaire will be similarly impacted if nothing is done. The state of our corals, health of the people, tourism-based economy, local fishermen and lifestyle will be impacted.

Bomba explained, if things continue as they are presently the city center, hospital and airport will be underwater and it doesn't have to go this way.

He urged the guests to visit the Greenpeace booth, sign the petition or go online to urge the



Onnie Emerenciana gives a presentation on garden compost/soil. Photo Julie Morgan

Netherlands to take action at [Greenpeace.org/Bonaire](https://www.greenpeace.org/Bonaire).

The next Nos Zjilea will be September 30 at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon. For more information visit their Facebook page. *Julie Morgan*

Experience Bonaire's local art at Sobremesa



Come explore the work of many local artists:

Ghislaine Monte • Henk Roozendaal • Whatside Archive
Mr Jackson • Renske Herder • Sasha van Duyn • Aloha Bonaire

Besides these works we have a special guest artist Germaine Nijdam showing about 15 works at Sobremesa while her own art shop on Bonaire is closed for holidays.

Opening hours are Tue-Fri 2-5 p.m. and Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Abraham Boulevard 10

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Shelter News



Despite the heat, a large crowd of enthusiastic children (and their sweating parents!) helped Animal Shelter Bonaire celebrate their 40th anniversary last month. Between photo ops with Paw Patrol, a dance workshop with Dance and More, bounce house, face painting, and much more....a great time was had by all. J.D. Shown above: (L-R) Frans Josef van den Nieuwehof, Gijs Borsten, Monique Degenaar Photos Julie Morgan



Pakus di Pruga (The Animal Shelter's Flea Market) is now closed until we find a new location. Unfortunately we can no longer accept donations because all our containers are full - including those at the Shelter.

Reach out, help a kid

Fostering can mean more than inviting a needy child to live in your home as a member of your family. It can also mean committing to meet a child's temporary needs now and then. Some children need secure care on weekends or during holidays. Some need transportation so they can participate in activities. Many opportunities are available for people willing step in to provide a child with support their own family network can't supply.

Bonaire needs people with a big heart who want to help a child grow up and develop in a safe and secure environment. Long term foster parents are needed, and

so are people who can just step into a child's life as a friendly face.

The Youth Care department at ZJCN coordinates foster care in the Caribbean Netherlands. They are holding recruitment events where you can find out more every weekend in September. The team will be present at Van den Tweel on September 9, at the Warehouse supermarket September 16, at Pietersz September 23, and on Saturday, September 30 they will be in Rincon at Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei and in the evening at the Taste of Bonaire in Playa. For more information send an email to: pleegzorg@jeugdzorgcn.com.

DMR

CAT CARE



SUPERVISOR

25 hrs. per week/ 5 days per week (one weekend day)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

REQUIREMENTS:

Love of cats/ basic knowledge of cat behavior and health;
physically able, good computer skills, good people skills

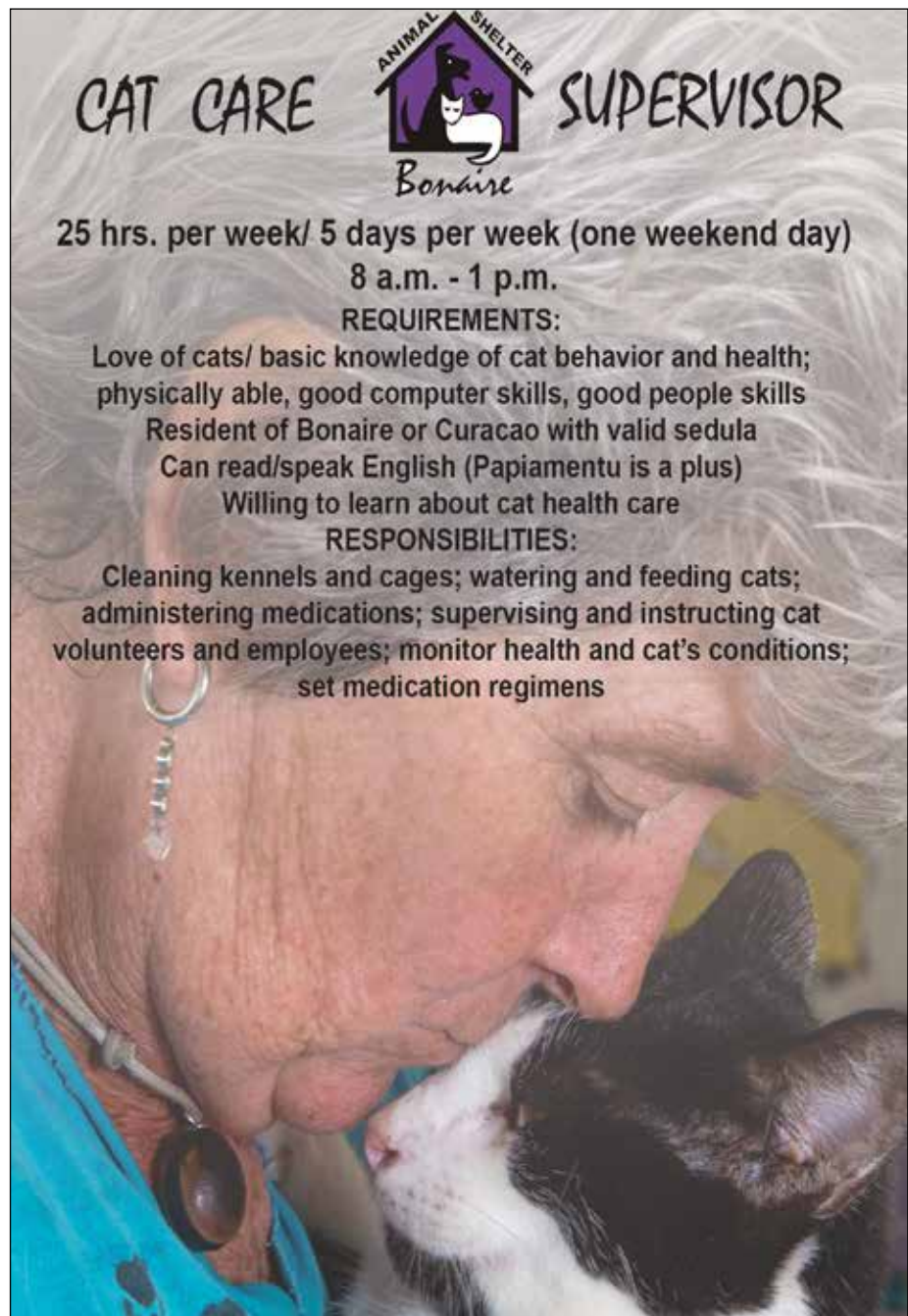
Resident of Bonaire or Curacao with valid sedula

Can read/speak English (Papiamentu is a plus)

Willing to learn about cat health care

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Cleaning kennels and cages; watering and feeding cats;
administering medications; supervising and instructing cat
volunteers and employees; monitor health and cat's conditions;
set medication regimens



Pet of the Week

This beautiful young lady is Geisha.

When Geisha was a little kitten she just appeared at a house where cats and dogs lived and was not safe for her. So the owners of the house brought kitten Geisha to the Shelter.

Geisha was afraid and didn't want to be touched but with a lot of patience and T.L.C. from our volunteers and staffmembers, Geisha found her trust in people.

And look at her now: Geisha moves like a little princess. She comes to you for a hug and loves to play with her cat toys. With her furry tail and tri-colored coat, she really is a beauty.

Geisha is 6 months old, has had all the vaccinations she needs, tested negative for FIV/L and will be chipped the moment you decide she will be yours.

Geisha is not used to be outside so she would be a perfect inside cat at your home or apartment and inside your heart!

Story Monique Degenaar

Photo Yolanda Nieuwenhuis



Geisha

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

10 Mountain bikers take on a 150 km ride

On Sunday, August 20, 10 brave mountain bikers participated in an impressive bike ride along the beautiful coastline of Bonaire. With a total distance of 150 kilometers and past sights such as Washington Park, these adventurers had an unforgettable experience.

The bike tour started early in the morning at 4 p.m. and participants were greeted with breathtaking ocean views as they cycled along Bonaire's winding trails. First the south side of the island was visited and then crossed over to the west via the east side. The road continued north through Goto Lake to Washington Park. Known for its stunning natural beauty, Washington Park was a highlight of the tour and provided fantastic photo opportunities.

Although all 10 mountain bikers took on the challenge, eight of them eventually made it to the finish line. These talented cyclists have spent over 10 hours doing their utmost to cover the distance and can be proud of their achievement. Their determination and perseverance are admirable.

The bike ride was not only a personal challenge for the participants, but also aimed to draw attention to the beautiful, natural environment of Bonaire. By undertaking this adventurous activity, the mountain bikers hope to raise awareness for the preservation of the island's ecosystem. They also hope that more mountain



bikers will cycle the many trails on Bonaire

"We are extremely proud of all participants. It was a challenging route, but they successfully completed it. We hope that this cycling tour will inspire others to enjoy the beauty of Bonaire

while taking care of nature. Tamara Brank and Berry Poort were the initiators of this event, thanks for their efforts," said Frank Bohm of de Freewieler. *Frank Böhm / Photo Inge vd Berg*

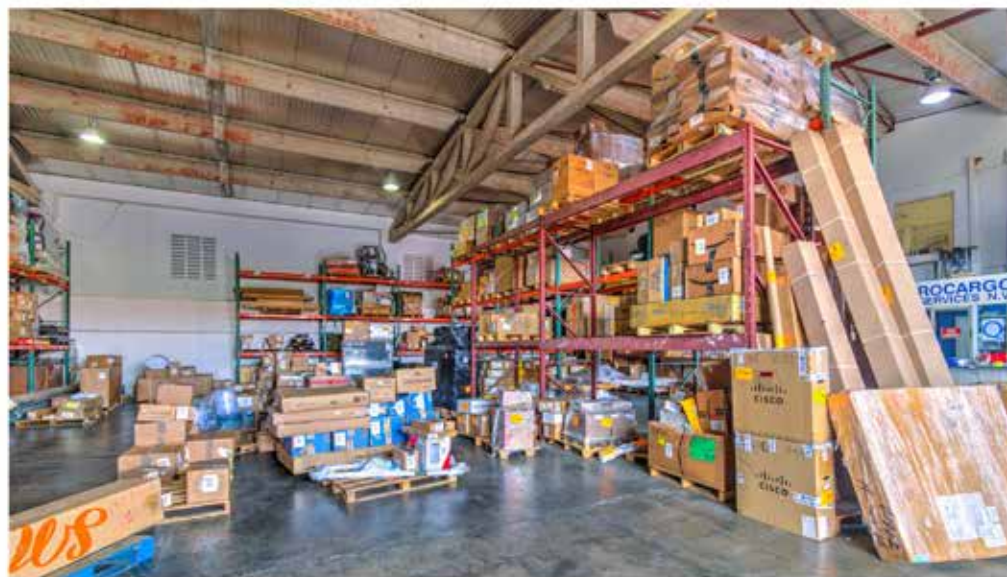


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