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BONAIRE The REPORTER

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O' Blue "Tolo" one of Bonaire's most iconic and beautiful ocean views
Photo Julie Morgan

World Ocean Month - One Ocean, One Climate, One Future – Together

Whether people live on a coast with the blue water in sight, surrounded by it on an island or landlocked and have never even seen it - everyone loves the Ocean. And this love is not limited to humans, as animals find joy and life in the ocean too.

We came from the Ocean; we are drawn to it and the Ocean gives us life every day. The oceans produce more than half of the oxygen we breathe and provide livelihood to billions of people. Yet we have abused this source of life for 100s of years with chemical dumping, air contamination, plastic pollution and overfishing. This misuse has come back to haunt us and could end us all.

For years Bonaire has been known for having the most beautiful, healthy reefs and plentiful marine life population in the Caribbean, but the island has had a major wakeup call. Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), beginning in 2014, swept through the Caribbean Ocean and found its way to Bonaire in 2023. Compounded with high temperatures from climate change, a major coral bleaching event occurred and lasted months. Plastic from all over the world washes in and accumulates on our beaches. The world has lost half of its coral reefs and mangroves, but Bonaire is fighting back to not become a part of that statistic through the work of our environmental organizations. For this Ocean Month, representatives of several of the organizations explained what they are doing to tackle the problems and how you can help.

Clean Coast Bonaire, a WWF-NL program, has been conducting marine litter monitoring at three sites around Bonaire for over five years. Citizen scientists collect, count, and categorize marine litter using the same methodology as on

the beaches of the Netherlands. By determining the types and quantities of litter present, and communicating this in a standardized way, this data can help to develop effective strategies to reduce marine pollution, inform policy-makers, and raise public awareness.

The fight against marine litter will require individual, local, regional and global action. World Ocean Month is bringing together this necessary global cooperation and encouraging the formation of concrete actions to preserve marine environments for future generations.

On the second Sunday each month, Clean Coast Bonaire invites any interested volunteers to join. For more information, please visit www.clean-coastbonaire.org

The Mangrove Maniacs do work that is critical for not only improving the health of Bonaire's mangrove forest but also the neighboring seagrass beds, coral reefs, and even the ocean. Healthy mangroves play a pivotal role in maintaining marine ecosystems by acting as natural water filters, trapping sediments and pollutants that would otherwise smother coral reefs and seagrass beds. These mangroves also provide essential nursery habitats for numerous marine species, thus supporting biodiversity and the overall health of the ocean. Furthermore, the dense root systems of mangroves help to stabilize coastlines, preventing erosion and protecting coastal communities from storm surges and sea-level rise.

The Maniacs are actively planting mangroves along the coastline, which not only improves the coastal defense against erosion and extreme weather events but also expands the habitat available for marine life.

For more info or to volunteer contact Sabine@MangroveManiacs.org.

REEF founders Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach, are familiar to everyone who consults their famed fish identification books. But REEF does more than count fish. They were the first NGO to tackle the problem of invasive lionfish in the tropical western Atlantic; they protect the spawning sites of charismatic once a year spawners like the Nassau grouper; and perhaps most importantly, REEF actively educates people and helps connect them to the oceans.

As Bonaire's reefs face what may be an existential crisis, it behooves all of us who care about the watery part of our planet to act. Disinfect your dive and snorkel gear; never touch the reef; don't order reef fish at restaurants; and encourage everyone to be mindful. Mother Earth is 71% oceans. Be kind to her. Contact Reef.org.

For **Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB)**, World Oceans Month is an opportunity to inspire action and positive change for our coral reef ecosystems. As global bleaching events become increasingly common and severe, it's no secret that coral reefs worldwide are facing an onslaught of prevailing threats. Active restoration is key to ensuring that coral populations maintain the abundance and genetic diversity they need to persist.

RRFB strongly believes that effective coral restoration starts from within our community. The theme of this year's World Oceans Month is "awakening new depths" – highlighting the role that oceans play for a wide variety of people around the world. It's a chance for us to celebrate

not only the incredible biodiversity of coral reefs but also the people who depend on them and are involved in restoration efforts. Together with our growing community of partners, volunteers, dive shops, and supporters, we can create positive change and continue to restore Bonaire's reefs! Info at ReefRenewalBonaire.org.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) - Sea turtles play an important role in two ecosystems: beaches and marine systems. Beaches and dune systems around the world and on Bonaire do not get very many nutrients during the year, so very little vegetation grows on the dunes and on the beach itself. This is because sand does not hold nutrients very well. And that's where sea turtles come in... Hatched and unhatched sea turtle eggs provide important nutrients to the beach, thereby helping dune plants to grow stronger. Healthy vegetation and strong roots hold the sand and protect the beach from erosion.

Did you know that sea turtles eat jellyfish? By eating jellyfish, sea turtles prevent large blooms of jellyfish – including the stinging jellyfish. Some species of sea turtles eat sponges, freeing up space on coral reefs for other organisms to settle and grow. And let's not forget sea turtles are an important attraction for marine tourism.

Let's all 'shell-abrate' World Sea Turtle Day on June 16 with the STCB Fishing Line Clean-up Dive on Sunday morning. For more information, please send an e-mail to cepa@bonaireturtles.org. (See pg 13)

Visit <https://WorldOceanDay.org> for information on how you can take action year round.

New two-year Administrative Agreement signed

The Bonaire 2024-2027 Administrative Agreement has been jointly signed by State Secretary Alexandra van Huffelen and acting Governor Nolly Oleana of behalf of the Bonaire Executive Council. The Administrative Agreements have been revised and renewed every two years since 10-10-10. Each is a link in a chain that defines the multi-year, sustainable collaboration between Bonaire and the central government. The recently renewed agreement focuses on joining in an integrated approach to controllable growth and sustainable development of the island while supporting a just society and participatory democracy.

Under the heading Prosperity and Welfare, Bonaire and the ministries of SZW, OCW, VWS and BZK are committed to working on providing greater social security for Bonaire residents by assuring them sufficient and predictable incomes, suitable and affordable homes and fewer financial worries. Youth services are central to the agreement. Thanks to an island 'child package', young people will be able to develop optimally and discover their talents by participating in sports, art and cultural activities, regardless of their family or financial circumstances.

The Executive Council and the central government have agreed to adopt the World Bank's slow growth model, an economic development strategy that focuses on assuring sustainable growth by managing permits for development and business startups. Sustainable development will also be promoted by creating public transport, improving the licensing, supervision and enforcement system (VTH), improving infrastructure, and managing area development.

The residents' socio-economic and social ties with the island will be strengthened making Bonaire's culture visible and promoting Papiamentu.

Participatory democracy will be strengthened by better digitalization that will inform residents about government policy, providing better legal support, and will improve citizen access to services.

The implementation power of the OLB will be increased by strengthened the civil service apparatus and organization. *DMR*

Bonaire water management lauded at world conference

"The way in which Bonaire, as a very small community, works on water management is an inspiring example for the world." So said moderator Grizelda Santos at the High Level Panel of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali during May 18 to 25. She was reacting to the presentation by Joanne Balentien-Nicastia, financial director of Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB).



for irrigation and the LVV service for the production of local food."

The water that WEB pumps from the sea to produce drinking water is clean, so no chemicals are needed to purify it. Consequently the residual water that is discharged back into the sea is pure salt water. "The entire process is efficient, safe and sustainable." Balentien-Nicastia, said.

"The next step is to make the electricity needed to make drinking water even more sustainable by increasing the supply of wind and solar energy to 70 to 80% in the coming years."

She also talked about future steps WEB has in mind. Reusing water as often as possible, for instance, and investing in a dam system to collect rainwater and prevent flooding."

Balentien-Nicastia traveled to Bali as a replacement for BES envoy Edison Rijna, who was committed to attend the SIDS conference in Antigua. The Dutch delegation was led by water envoy Meike van Ginneken. *DMR*

Photo: WEB Chief Financial Officer, Joanne Balentien-Nicastia with water envoy Meike van Ginneken (center) and Dijkgraaf Luzette Kroon of the Wetterskip Fryslân.

The World Water Forum focused on integrating water management to assure sufficient water and sanitation are available at a time when population growth is driving demand and climate change is causing long-term periods of drought that alternate with periods of abundant rainfall and rising sea water levels. Food and energy security cannot be achieved unless the world has sufficient clean water.

"I discussed the challenges of a small island that we actually have to find solutions for an isolated environment in order to be self-sufficient," Balentien-Nicastia, said. "The first step was already taken in the 1990s by research by the World Wildlife Fund with the arrival of the wastewater treatment plant that is now managed by WEB. Measurements show that this has a clearly positive effect on the quality of the seawater along the coast, which is good news for the coral and marine fauna. We purify wastewater into irrigation water and supply this to hotels

How Bonaire voted in the EU elections

Only 1784 islanders cast a valid vote in the European elections. They constituted 12% of the qualified voters. The leading vote getter was Kenville Kleinmorgen, the only candidate of Dutch-Caribbean descent, who received 533 of the 730 votes cast for the GroenLinks and PvdA combination. GroenLinks/

PvdA was the clear winner of the Caribbean Netherlands voting, getting almost double what D66 received. D66 came in second in the election. The PVV achieved third place with 172 votes, slightly ahead of the VVD with 151 votes. *DMR*

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The Bonaire Reporter June 12 - June 26, 2024

ReeFeista marks World Reef Awareness Day

World Reef Awareness Day, June 1, was celebrated for the sixth time in Bonaire at ReeFiesta, thanks to Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB). Some 120 divers and snorkelers learned how the coral project works in a training session and then joined the RRFB staff in a hands-on experience at 10 of the different coral nursery sites on Bonaire.

Divers learned the technique of cleaning the algae from the coral trees and several had the opportunity to add new fragments to the nursery trees. Guided snorkelers watched from above as the divers cleaned the trees in a tour of the trees and outplanting sites.

It was party time in the evening at Divi Flamingo Resort for a celebration with the 13 participating dive shops, participants, sponsors and volunteers. Stepping up to the mic were RRFB's Board of Directors David Fishman, Managing Director Francesca Virdis, Ecology Advisor for STINAPA Bonaire Caren Ekrich and event sponsor Orco Bank's Country manager Judy Diaz.

A fun trivia contest about coral restoration and an impressive RRFB fundraising raffle were held with great prizes donated by local dive operators and sponsors.

RRFB's ReeFiesta and celebration of



Tina Nicolaas (R) instructs Malin Kaijser (L) how to prepare and hang coral fragments.

World Reef Awareness Day was held in collaboration with AB-Dive, Beyond the Corals, Buddy Dive Resort, Divi Dive, Harbor Village Resort, Scuba Elite, Technical Diving Services, Toucan Diving, Tropical Divers, VIP Diving, Wannadive, Xprodivers, and 4Wheel Diving. Official sponsors were: Orco Bank Bo-

naire, Rocargo, Hooked by Sunsets RestroBar, Tourism Corporation Bonaire, and Brandaris BV.

Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire is a non-profit organization focused on the protection and restoration of Bonaire's biodiverse coral reef. The organization

collaborates with research partners and regional practitioners to strengthen Bonaire's coral population. Currently 14 partner dive operators on Bonaire have helped to outplant over 60,000 corals back to the reef.

Story / photos Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 155-4 Oceanfront Condo with Private Pier



- Location: Hato, oceanfront
- Living area: 165 m2 / 1776 sq. ft.
- 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, office, laundry room

- Ocean access, rinse tank, locker, parking
- Unobstructed ocean view
- Furnished, ready to move into



Asking price \$995,000 US Dollar

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



Theft and property crime

Between May 26 and June 9 four scooters were stolen. All were locked.

June 8. Jewelry watches and cash was reported stolen from a company on Kaya Grandi.

June 8. A young man, 17, was arrested at the police station for theft and a home invasion on Friday, June 7.

June 8. A young man, 16, was arrested on Sorobon Beach for theft. He grabbed a backpack and contents that was lying on a beach chair while the owner was swimming.

June 6. The rear wheel, saddle and rubber handles were stolen between 12:30 and 11 p.m. from a Merida bicycle that was in front of the entrance to the hospital on Kaya Soeur Bartola.

May 29. At a farm located at Punta Blanku thieves gained access to a warehouse through a back door during the night and took away 120 dozen eggs.

May 28. Thieves entered the house on Kaya Taki through an open kitchen window between 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 p.m. They took jewelry and T-shirts. The victim stated that strangers also tried to break in through the bathroom window two weeks ago.

May 25. A dark gray Yamaha boat engine, 75 horsepower, was stolen from a boat moored at a marina on Boulevard Julio A. Abraham during the night of the 24/25.

May 25. Thieves entered a home on Kaya Taki between 10 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. through an open window and took, among other things, some jewelry and sunglasses.

Arrests

June 9. A man, 33, was arrested for being on our island illegally. The man first drove away from the officers, then ran into the mundi. When he was spotted again, he jumped over a wall and ran away. The officers remained at the house and arrested the suspect there. The suspect strongly resisted arrest and officers used 'pepper spray' to handcuff the suspect. He was handed over to the Aliens Supervision Department of the KPCN.

June 8. A man, 35, was arrested for vandalism after he reported to the police station that he had smashed the windows of a vehicle on Kaya Bermejo.

June 6. During the night hours a man, 27, was arrested for attempted theft and vandalism. When an on-duty patrol stopped another car on Kaya Korona for a routine check, the officers noticed that the front passenger side door of a parked white vehicle was damaged. The front door opened and a man dressed all in black with a balaclava, gloves and a crowbar in his hand got out of the vehicle and started running. After a foot chase, the suspect stopped and lay down on the ground. The crowbar and the white vehicle were seized for further investigation.

June 5. In the early morning hours the Financial Economic Crime Team (Finec) of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force conducted a search in a house located on Kaya Trupial as part of an investigation into embezzlement in employment. A woman, 32, was arrested and several relevant items to the case were seized.

June 4. Following a collision between two vehicles, a man, 39, ran after another man on foot with a machete and threatened him with death. When the patrol arrived, the suspect was holding the machete and an iron bar in his hand while the other man was running. The suspect was told twice to throw the machete and the iron bar on the ground. He did not comply and put the machete and the iron bar in the trunk of his vehicle. When the officers tried to open the trunk, the suspect attempted to keep the trunk closed. While the officers were busy taking a report, the suspect became brutal and rude to the of-

ficers, got into his car and drove away, but stopped a little further on Kaya Benz. The officers drove in his direction and told the suspect that he was under arrest. The suspect did not want to cooperate and strongly resisted arrest, forcing the officers to use 'pepper spray.' During the transport of the suspect to the police station, he began to act aggressively and suddenly headbutted the officer sitting next to him in the car. As a result, the officer was injured in the face and had to be taken to hospital for medical treatment.

June 3. Around 9 a.m. three men aged 35, 24 and 20 were arrested at the police station. Suspect 1 blocked the vehicle of another and got out swinging a machete. He then kicked the vehicle and drove away towards the police station where an altercation broke out between the parties. Suspect 2 was arrested in the police station parking lot because he kicked the car of another suspect. Suspect 3 tried to hit the car of one of the suspects and destroyed the tires of a rented car. He also threatened a family member with death. The machete was confiscated.

June 2. Around 5:45 p.m., a man, 22, was arrested for fencing. A patrol recognized the suspect who is known for driving a motor vehicle without a driver's license. He was informed that the scooter would be confiscated because this was the third time he had driven without a driver's license. The patrol also concluded that the scooter was probably stolen and it was seized for further investigation.

May 29. Around 7:00 am, a house on Kaya Dementerara in Tera Cora was searched as part of an investigation into violations of the BES Opium Act. A man, 53, was arrested. Several relevant articles and a quantity of narcotics were found and seized.

May 27. A man, 38, was arrested on Kaya Dialma for assault.

May 25. A man, 32, was arrested for insulting an official in office, for public intoxication, for resisting arrest with violence and threatening. During a routine check of a passenger car on the on Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez, the suspect arrived walking and started swearing, insulting and threatening an officer. When he did not respond to several requests to keep a distance so that the officers could do their work, he was arrested. During his arrest, the suspect resisted violently.

May 25. A man, 24, was arrested for failure to comply with police demands. He was stopped for a routine check and was unable to produce a driver's license. He did not comply when told to hand over his car key to the officers. He was arrested and ticketed for driving without a license.

Driving under the influence

From May 26 to June 8 eight drivers were arrested for driving under the influence. Six of those drivers had been involved in a collision. Two drivers were banned from driving for three hours; one was banned for one hour and one for six hours. Three drivers had their driving licenses revoked. A car was taken to station for safekeeping.

Traffic accidents

Between June 1 and 4 police sorted out three major accidents; A pickup truck crashed into a cyclist; a motorcycle collided with a minibus; and a pick-up that was trying to overtake a mini-bus when the vehicle also turned left, lost control and crashed into four parked cars. There were seven people in the pick-up, including four in the truck bed.

The KPCN would like to emphasize that it is illegal to transport passengers in the back of pick-ups.

Traffic control

June 5. Around 6 p.m. nine vehicles were checked including two scooters during a traffic control on Kaya Hermandad. Six fines were issued for driving without: 3x a valid driver's license; 2x a seat belt on; 1x for valid insurance.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice

Hi Bob –

I moved to Bonaire over ten years ago and I've worked for a Bonaire company since I moved here. I just turned 65 and I am wondering if I am entitled to a pension from Bonaire.

Thanks, Betty J in Hato

Betty, thank you for your question. If you were a resident of Bonaire and you worked for a Bonaire company, you might be entitled to receive a pension from the island pension fund, also known as S.Z.W. (Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid). When you turn 65 you can contact the pension office via email at pensioen@rijksdienstcn.com and they will provide you with an application form to complete. They will review your application and your employment history to see if you qualify. You can expect to receive an answer within two or three months after you apply. The pension office will notify you if you qualify for a pension and the amount. If you are approved they will deposit your pension directly into your local bank account each month.

But don't wait too long, if you apply for



your pension late, they will only go back a maximum of 12 months for back payments.

Regards, Bob

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.

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Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is more than you think

The hyperbaric chamber has been in Bonaire since the late 80's and most people know that divers suffering from decompression illnesses are treated here. When a diver is treated in the chamber, he/she is taken to a simulated depth, increasing the internal pressure of the chamber while breathing pure oxygen. The treatment works from several angles, on the one hand, it reduces the size of the bubbles that may be obstructing circulation or nerve impulse and on the other hand, increases the amount of oxygen the blood can carry, improving the condition of the functions affected by the blockages produced by bubbles. Oxygen in this case also works as an anti-inflammatory helping the recovery process.

Less known are the other therapeutic uses of hyperbaric oxygenation medicine. These conditions normally require repeated treatments in the chamber over a period of time. The temporary extra high oxygen levels encourage normal tissue oxygen levels, helps fight bacteria, promotes formation of blood vessels enhancing the healing process and triggers the release of substances called growth factors and stem cells. And it promotes healing even after the therapy is completed.

Hyperbaric oxygenation can treat various types of infections, anemia, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, crushing injuries, lesions resistant to healing such as in diabetes, gangrene, skin or bone necrotizing infections and lesions caused by radiotherapy.

Treatments in the hyperbaric chamber are non-invasive. They are generally very safe, and complications rarely occur. Potential risks such as middle ear injuries, lung problems and seizures from oxygen toxicity are easy to prevent.

In many cases hyperbaric oxygenation has saved lives, mainly in the case of divers with decompression illness, but also in people with carbon monoxide poisoning. The treatment of injuries has prevented the amputation of limbs in diabetic patients and contributed to the reconstitution of damaged tissue in burned patients. In this scenario, oxygen is prescribed as a treating substance so a medical doctor is always responsible for the dosage.

It is a big advantage that we have the availability of first-class medical treatment right here on the island, available not only for divers, but also for the general public. When prescribed by your family doctor or the specialist, the local health insurance covers all the costs of the treatment.

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.



Public order

June 8. In the night a major fight on Kaya Prinses Marie was reported. During the brawl, the rear window of a car was destroyed by a bullet.

June 3. Around 1 p.m. a lifeless body was reported found in a house on Kaya Catalina Diaz-Leonora. A patrol, ambulance personnel, personnel from the KPCN forensic department and the medical examiner went to the scene. The medical examiner recorded the death of a 63-year-old man with initials L.R.D. born on January 8, 1961 in Aruba.

Dogs.

May 27. Around 1 p.m. the central control room received a report that a child had been bitten by an aggressive dog. The dog's owners had been warned several times. When the patrol arrived, they found a woman looking after the dog who stated that the owners no longer wanted this dog. Two weeks ago, the dog had dropped a two-year-old child, injuring the child. A veterinarian was asked to put the dog to sleep. When the vet arrived, the dog jumped over the fence and fled.

Letters & Opinions

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

Ocean of Life: The Critical Role of Marine Biodiversity

Introduction: Earth's Oceanic Dominance

We call our planet 'Earth,' but 71% of its surface is covered by ocean. The ocean is one of the main repositories of the world's biodiversity, constituting more than 95% of Earth's living space. It contains about 250,000 known species, with many more yet to be discovered—at least two-thirds of the world's marine species are still unidentified.

The Ocean as the Largest Biome

With an average depth of 3,800 meters and 50% of its area below 3,000 meters, the ocean is the largest biome on Earth. It encompasses about 1 billion cubic kilometers of deep water and 326 million square kilometers of deep seafloor. The deep sea, starting at 200 meters depth where sunlight no longer supports photosynthesis, plays a critical role in maintaining our planet's biodiversity and ecosystems. This immense body of water holds 97% of all Earth's water and supports 80% of all life on the planet.

Current Threats to Marine Biodiversity

Despite its vastness, the ocean is not immune to human activities. Overfishing, pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction are major threats to marine biodiversity. Plastic pollution alone affects at least 700 marine species, and rising ocean temperatures threaten coral reefs and other sensitive ecosystems.

Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

The importance of biodiversity for sustainable development is nowhere more essential than in the ocean. Marine biodiversity—the variety of life in the ocean and seas—is crucial for all three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. It supports the healthy functioning of the planet and provides services that underpin human health, well-being, and prosperity.

Vital Functions of Ocean Life

The ocean and its life forms are vital for the planet's health, supplying half of the oxygen we breathe and absorbing about 26% of the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year. Evidence continues to show the essential role of marine biodiversity in maintaining a healthy planet and social well-being. The fishery and aquaculture sectors



provide income for hundreds of millions of people, especially in low-income families, and contribute directly and indirectly to food security. Marine ecosystems offer innumerable services to coastal communities around the world. For example, mangrove ecosystems not only provide food for over 210 million people but also offer livelihoods, clean water, forest products, and protection against erosion and extreme weather events.

Scientific Discoveries and Innovations

Recent discoveries in marine biology, such as the identification of new species and the understanding of deep-sea ecosystems, have expanded our knowledge of the ocean. Innovations in conservation techniques, like marine protected areas (MPAs) and sustainable fishing practices, are helping to preserve marine biodiversity.

Marine Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals

The centrality of marine biodiversity to sustainable development is recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Global leaders have highlighted the urgency of improving the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, particularly through SDG 14, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine

resources for sustainable development and emphasizes the strong linkages between marine biodiversity and broader sustainable development objectives.

Success Stories and Case Studies

There are successful examples of marine conservation efforts around the world. For instance, the recovery of fish populations in well-managed MPAs and the restoration of coral reefs through community-led initiatives demonstrate the positive impact of dedicated conservation work.

Challenges and the Way Forward

Despite its importance, only about 8% of the ocean is under some form of marine protection. According to the Marine Conservation Institute, less than 3% is considered "fully" or "highly" protected, and the effectiveness of conservation in these areas remains questionable.

To achieve the SDGs, we must abandon business-as-usual approaches and mainstream biodiversity into our development planning, governance and decision-making. We need to mobilize resources to make the necessary on-the-ground changes. Additionally, stakeholders at all levels will need to be conscious of how their actions and behaviours affect the marine ecosystems on which we all depend, and make conscious decisions to improve our relationships with the ocean, which has given us so much throughout human history.

Join the Effort:

Actions You Can Take for Ocean Conservation

We can all make a difference in marine conservation. Start by reducing your plastic use—opt for reusable bags, bottles, and straws. Choose sustainable seafood to support responsible fishing practices. Get involved in beach clean-ups to help keep our shores and waters clean. Advocate for stronger marine protection policies by raising awareness and supporting organizations dedicated to ocean conservation. Engage in efforts to protect marine habitats, such as fencing in free-roaming goats to prevent overgrazing of vegetation and soil erosion. Every action we take helps preserve the health of our oceans for future generations. Our efforts matter—together, we can protect our ocean's rich biodiversity.

FSPB

Future of Piskabon in Danger due to Island Government's Actions

In connection with the decision of the island government to cut the budget of the association of fishermen Piskabon, Din Domacasse of the MPB party put forward the following: "It seems as if certain people want to leave hinted that nothing is going well at Piskabon and that cutting the amount that Piskabon receives from the island government is justified."

We believe in the importance of transparency, so that the entire Bonairean society can see what is going on. We urge dialogue, transparency and cooperation to find a solution for now, but also for the long term for our society and our fishermen.

According to Din Domacasse it is good to realize that Piskabon is consists of not just Mr Delanoy. Piskabon is an organization with a board and more than 50 members. One person works in an accounting firm for Piskabon, which tackles and improves the financial part. Piskabon is therefore committed to getting their financial affairs in order. The Island government must help with this and not destroy the organization.

"We challenge the island government to hold a mirror up to itself to realize that it took decades before, only last year, the island's finances could be approved so an annual report could be made.

Now after just seven months, the current island government has created chaos in the finance department, that even

the Netherlands has rejected the budget amendment, which is a slap in the face of Bonaire. How will these authorities in the Netherlands behave? Would they feel like public finances should be cut?" Domacasse wonders.

The results of Piskabon

Furthermore, Domacasse points out that Piskabon has made much good progress in recent years in creating projects for fishermen. For example the FADS project, which provides the fishermen with more benefits income per day.

Domacasse says: "Piskabon goes to different conferences and organizes activities for more knowledge and improvement in the field of fishing and passes this knowledge on to our fishermen. Personally, I know of many cases where fishermen received help from Piskabon to buy a boat, a motor, etc. I am disappointed that just now when there is an organization for fishermen that is quite active, this island government acts in an arrogant and thoughtless manner, and so as to try to break Piskabon."

Personnel costs

The island government compares apples and oranges. Piskabon's personnel costs fall logically higher because the island government bases itself on a much higher budget for Piskabon.

"Personnel costs are high in all organizations. For example, at the OLB itself of the 80 million in income, between

20 and 30 million are spent in personnel costs. Almost 10 million goes to costs for buildings, electricity, etc. Very arrogant that the deputies want to make demands for Piskabon, but at the OLB itself it is not much better. That is why my next question to the island government is: How much does the representative is currently renting for the five buildings spread throughout Bonaire and which the island council rents for the R&O directorate?

"The employees of Piskabon don't earn their salary by doing nothing. They organize several projects for the fishermen, they provide assistance in the administration of the fishermen and they help on a daily basis when ice, cool boxes, motor oil, etc. are needed," says Din Domacasse.

Dialogue, transparency and cooperation

Din Domacasse concludes with the following comment: "It is also good to remember that the previous island government started levying surcharges on real estate taxes, with the aim to help our fishermen, among other things. These surcharges provide several million extra in the government coffers, and the current island government wants to be stingy towards it Piskabon. It is quite possible that the island government has comments regarding Piskabon, but you cannot simply cut the amount of the care contract without warning it in advance, and then ask the complaints to sit at the table to talk. We urge dialogue, transparency and cooperation to find a solution that is good for society and for our fishermen who depend on fishing to put bread on the table for themselves and their families."

Din Domacasse, MPB

Stings Happen:

Bonaire's Sting Docs get advanced training and antidotes

by Bud Gillan, Educator & Researcher, buddygillan@gmail

Bonaire is a Leader in Caribbean Jellyfish Research

Since 1998, scientists, doctors and researchers have been studying stinging jellies around Bonaire. Starting with the notorious blue Portuguese Man-O-War (*Physalia*) to box jellies (*Alatina*, *Tamoya*), mangrove hydroids to the swarms of siphonophores and the painful nuisance *pika pika* or sea lice (*Unguculata*). Stinging marine organisms have created painful wounds, scars and lasting venom tattoos. First aid and medical treatments have been both a mystery and highly ineffective. This has been true worldwide, not just in the Dutch Caribbean. But science and medicine have changed that.

First, the Jellies

Little was known about the venomous jellies around the Caribbean, including Bonaire. Several new species of Cubozoans and stinging organisms have been discovered. Most noted is the Bonaire Banded Box Jelly, scientifically known as *Tamoya ohboya*. It took 10 years to determine if the genetic sequencing was new and the morphology was different than any other Cubozoan. This is a highly toxic but very rare organism. A recent *Tamoya* sting on Curaçao shows just how toxic and flesh digesting it can



(L-R) Bud Gillan, Dr. Patricia van Putten, Dr. Angel Yanagihara,

be. Over time world class researchers and scientists have identified and collected new specimens for identification. This included scientists, toxicologists, medical doctors and more to parse out the different species and document their physiologies and morphologies. Bonaire has become a focal point for understanding and research about today's important jelly world.

Second, the Toxins and Taxonomy

Among the organizations that were key to these new understandings were The Smithsonian Institute, University of Hawaii Medical School, University of Amsterdam and Florida Atlantic University. Key to this work was the help of the Dutch Government and STINAPA and CIEE from Bonaire. Dr. Angel Yanagihara at UH Medical School developed new ways to build the venom antidotes Sting No More (SNM). It is now used worldwide, saving lives and wounds gaping from porin (hole punching) venom. The details on how SNM works is highly complex but relatively easily for individuals, doctors, EMT's, to use. Information is described online at www.stingnomore.com. Much of the proof on sting victims occurred right here on Bonaire, which continues to grow into a focal point in the Caribbean and world for jelly science.

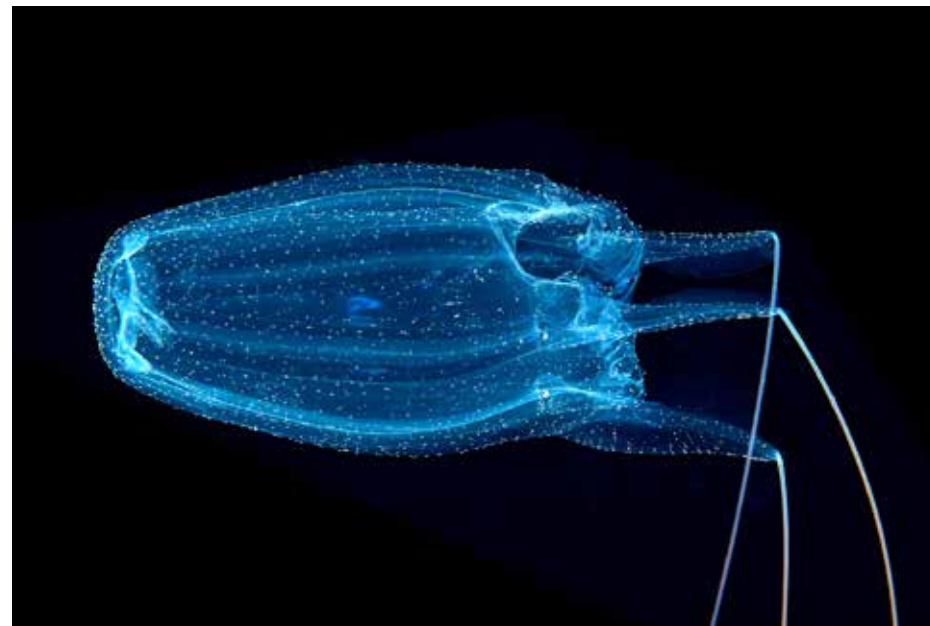
Third, the "Sting Docs"

Dr. Yanagihara, via Zoom, has provided highly advanced sting training to Bonaire's doctors and EMT's. The teaching content and SNM antidote donated by AlataLabs (maker of SNM) continues to give the necessary tools needed on Bonaire and now elsewhere. These Sting Docs, led by Dr. Patricia van Putten, of Bonaire's Fundashon Mariadal will provide information and training of in-

involved medical staff around the Caribbean. The staff are learning the correct means to treat stings initially and with ongoing, delayed (Irukandji symptoms) in the how jellyfish venom works. This is a poorly understood phenomenon caused by several species of Cubozoans that can include co-morbidities learned about during the COVID epidemics.

The Original Sting Doc is an Angel

Working with other countries, medical facilities, doctors and medical researchers, Bonaire will have the opportunities to stay in a lead position across the Caribbean. And a special thanks to the original "Sting Doc" Angel Yanagihara, who travels around the world to ensure SNM stays viable for all sting victims to use. Her detailed story is online in the YouTube episode "Science of the Sting.". This episode provides both a deeper look into jellyfish research, nematocyst destruction and her own flat-lining from *Alatina* venom in an ambulance on the way to the hospital in Hawaii.



Alatina alata - Photo Linda Ianello

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World Oceans Day cleanup a success



Taking part in the beach cleanup, Leon Schellevis director of Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort Bonaire said, “We think it’s important that companies take action to help fight environmental threats. The beach and reef cleanups are one of the ways we do this...We chose the east side of Klein Bonaire because unfortunately a lot of trash from Bonaire gets taken by the wind and currents. We’re planning on going back soon because we saw there was a lot of trash left...”

Schellevis explained their operational policies at the resort are in place to reduce pressure on the environment with renewable energy, no single use plastic and purchasing environmentally friendly or locally produced items.

Thank you to Scuba Do, STINAPA and the volunteers for making a difference on World Oceans Day.

The next cleanup in World Oceans month is June 16 with Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire on World Sea Turtle Day. (see the story on page 13)

Story and photos Julie Morgan

With well over 200 dive shops and water sports businesses on Bonaire, only one officially celebrated World Oceans Day on June 8 and that was Scuba Do. Partnering with STINAPA the relatively new dive shop at Chogogo Resort invited Bonaire’s divers and snorkelers to a beach and underwater cleanup on Klein Bonaire.

dive boat at Harbour Village Marina while the beach cleanup crew of 14 were given a lift by STINAPA rangers. The rangers assisted in the cleanup with a diver underwater, from a kayak and they returned later to remove the trash bags and other debris from the cleanup.

The cleanup day began with the PADI specialty class, Dive for Debris, taught by Scuba Do instructors Annemaryn Kesteren and Annemiek Gerritsen. Information was provided on why cleanups are necessary, planning the dive, what types of stuff to pick up or not to pick up like coral encrusted debris, check for critters, how the trash effects the coral reefs and what we can do to eliminate or at least slow the pollution of trash in our oceans.

Underwater there was a minimal amount of trash recovered but notes were recorded as to quite a few tires for removal by the marine park at a possible later date. The beach cleanup team gathered 12 large garbage bags of trash in a 500 meter area on the shore in an hour. This debris is blown from the shores of Bonaire to the little island and accumulates. The majority of trash consisted of plastic water and soda bottles.

On return the Dive for Debris divers received a certificate for the class and everyone enjoyed a cool drink.

The group of 12 divers boarded a Wanna-



A Garden?

Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover
Grapes



Not so long ago I was in an area where growing grapes was very popular. It was an awesome landscape, a valley surrounded by mountains, rivers, lush gardens and lovely farms. This amazing panorama of grape fields inspired me to write this.

Traveling through this region, I picked and ate a lot of grapes, sweet as sugar and so juicy. This was my first time picking my own grapes and eating them from the vine.

A long time ago, my neighbor’s mom had grapes growing in her yard in Rincon. The vine grew next to her porch which provided shade and beauty but also produced tiny round purple black grapes, slightly sour to the taste with small hard pits. The vine flourished so well and produced so much, we always had some to enjoy.

So grapes can grow here. Are you interested in growing your own grapes?

Look in your local nursery for the type of grape you want to plant. The care of your plant can depend on the type you choose. It’s best to leave it in the pot for a while while you prepare the soil. The first year in the ground or pot, the plant does not require too much compost or manure because this could possibly

burn the roots. The plant is sensitive at this stage.

The basic compost nutrients from grape plants exists in two parts. The first part is the organic one, such as cow manure and the second one is calcium (egg shells). This organic mix has all the nutrients and minerals the grape plant needs. The calcium is necessary to keep the pH value in balance and ensures the plant can absorb nutrients better. First add the calcium, then one month later you add the organic mixture.

When you have your plant in poor dry soil, such as ours on Bonaire, you should do feed it twice a year. From the first feeding, you will not see much change in the plant. On the second feeding, you will notice a huge growth spurt. After one or two years your plant will begin to bear fruit. If you see your plant has bunches of grapes but the leaves are yellow, it’s time to feed it again. The color of the leaves means too few nutrients.

1. Light green to yellow leaf, red leaf stem, small leaves, poor growth, small bunches, means your plant needs more nitrogen.
2. Brown edges on leaves, low production, means your plant needs more phosphorus.
3. Brown leaves, dark brown leaf edges, getting sick quickly and often, means it needs

more potassium.

4. Yellow and brown color or spots especially on leaf edges means lack of magnesium.

When planting your grape plant to grow wild, consider allowing for 2-4 meters between vines. If you are going to prune regularly, 1-2 meters apart is sufficient. If using a pergola, put one plant on each pillar.

The grape vine is an extremely beautiful plant as an ornamental and decorative accent to your garden. It will grow 1-2 meters per year and it always grows up. Prune the lower stems so the taller stems can flourish.

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.

New labor dispute mediator appointed

Richard Arends will take over as labor mediator for the Caribbean Netherlands effective July 1. Arends, who has a legal background and broad experience in industrial relations, is considered a bridge builder. His primary job will be to maintain a harmonious working climate in the BES.

The mediator's responsibilities include preventing industrial actions by steering disputes to the negotiating table, establishing collective labour agreements, and organizing referendums to determine which union will represent employees. The mediator has no role in settling individual grievances. Arends will replace Anselmo Pontilius, the mediator since 2014. *DMR*



No quick fix for digitizing government services researchers warn

Researchers have warned that effective government digital services to the public cannot be created in the Caribbean Netherlands using the straightforward "Dutch approach" because the local circumstances are very different here. The researchers said the task will require tenacity and the willingness to make a long-term commitment and sustain it with a multi-year budget.

Their core recommendation is that an organization needs to be created within the government that is structurally responsible for digitalization, has an overview authority over projects and innovations, is capable of doing the job, and is given the time and money to do it.

DMR

Double child benefit for intensive care coming

Parents in the Caribbean Netherlands who have a child needing intensive care because of a disability or illness will start receiving a double child allowances on July 1, 2025. In the meantime, they will receive a lump sum payment of \$ 3,879.31. This measure will extend to islands a benefit that is paid in the European Netherlands. *DMR*

Minor changes likely for Tourist Tax

At its meeting on June 11, the Island Council may vote to reduce to \$10 the tourist tax paid for island children who do not live on Bonaire, to exempt Bonairean students studying abroad from paying the tax, and to allow visitors to enter multiple times in one month on a single payment.

Four other, presumably more substantive changes in the tourist tax, have been proposed and are "broadly agreed" to but, according to the press release, "need more time to be worked out for feasibility and legal feasibility." *DMR*

Why you can't find a place to park

During 2023 approximately 1900 newcomers moved to Bonaire, natural growth (births minus deaths) added 98 more, and only 941 decided to leave. So on the January 1, 2024, Bonaire had 25,133 inhabitants, 1,043 more (4 percent) than a year earlier. About a thousand of them were born outside the Caribbean Netherlands, mostly in the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela and the European Netherlands. *DMR*

Service backup continues at Civil Affairs

People needing important documents issued by the Civil Affairs department are starting to line up at 6 a.m. hoping to get walk-in service. Their average waiting time is three hours. People who call ahead cannot get an appointment until September. The staff who work at Civil Affairs are as frustrated as the members of the public who need their service.

The delays are reportedly caused by "a faltering print server that ... has been exhibiting unpredictable malfunctions for some time." The cause is said to be a fault in the software. *DMR*

OLB refuses another Sunset Beach building permit application

The would-be developer of Sunset Beach Resort has again applied for a permit to build a resort that is too big on a lot that is too small, one with scanty parking as well. The executive council of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) has again rejected the application, accusing the developer of "trying to maximize the theoretical building possibilities of the plot" while ignoring the island's building codes. In its letter dated May 28, 2024, the OLB said it wants to see a significantly smaller resort on the specified location. *DMR*

Depositors' bankruptcy protection to increase

If a bank in the BES islands goes bankrupt, the government's Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DGS) assures depositors will get back up to \$10,000 per person. That protection will increase to \$25,000 on January 1, 2025, and the residency requirement will be eliminated. *DMR*

The Dutch islands agree to fight climate change together

All the Caribbean islands belonging to the Kingdom of the Netherlands have signed a joint agenda in the fight against climate change. They agreed to work together to accelerate the phasing out fossil fuel use by expanding their capacities to produce solar and wind energy. They also agreed to develop water management systems to collect excess water during heavy rainfall.

The Dutch Caribbean islands are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, even though they produce a minuscule portion of the pollutants that are causing it. *DMR*

Bonaire gets money for upgrading housing



VHF helps municipalities and regions to invest in improving housing in the most vulnerable areas. The money can be spent on replacing old homes, carrying out major renovations, refurbishing public spaces, and improving facilities. The goal is to improve the quality of life, sustainability, and safety in the targeted neighborhoods.

Deputy Anjelica Cicilia, who initiated the application for VHF funding, said, "This means that we can work on a neighborhood-oriented approach for a better living environment, lower energy costs and a safer living environment." *DMR*

Photo: SkyviewBonaire-BW Aerialresidentialarea-HatoNorth

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has agreed to make 5 million euros available for the restructuring of private homes in the BES islands. Bonaire will get 2.8 million. The funds will come from the Public Housing Fund (VHF) which previously has supported applications only from the European Netherlands.

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Joan Smit was weeding her garden, flipping up rocks and grass with a screwdriver when a bright green parakeet suddenly landed right in front of her and began flipping up rocks with his beak just like she was. She was astounded and enchanted by this brazen bird who seemed to be something out of a Disney movie. She subsequently learned this bird, well known in Lagoen Hill, was called Coco and had bonded with many of the residents. Some loved his antics, others found him destructive, but Joan was in love with Coco, a wild bird.

Of course she fed him as did many others. Coco would land on her shoulder, climb her screens and screech at her for attention. Coco had a mate whom they called Chanel and this simple, joyful bird affair continued until sadly Coco showed up one day very ill. He was too ill to fly the short distance to his food. This happened during a possible bird flu epidemic on Bonaire. Coco returned to Joan but the next time she saw him he was worse and barely able to walk. Joan called Elly from the Wild Bird Rehab who dropped everything

to send someone to get him. I wish this had a happy ending but despite receiving food, love and care at the Bird Rehab, that night, Coco passed away. Joan felt he at least was safe and fed thanks to Elly when he died.

Joan knew she wanted to make a gift to Elly. She had a vision for a mural and volunteered to paint her vision at the Mangrove Center/ Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab. This labor of love took four months to complete with dust and wind adding to the challenge for Joan. But with Coco in her heart, she persevered. The mural depicts the mangroves, a flamingo bathing in a beautiful water spray, Caracara, lizards and of course sweet Coco perched on a cactus keeping a watchful eye over the entire scene.

Joan has painted many murals on Bonaire including in private homes and the large one at the animal shelter honoring Bruce Bowker's life. She is one of those gifted artists seemingly born with the ability to envision a project and make it happen with delightful style. From the time she picked up a crayon

as a child she has received awards, scholarships and kudos on her art projects. She loves to draw animals and has been commissioned to memorialize beloved pets. Her drawings are so perfectly accurate that people can recognize a specific dog she has drawn!

I admit I'm jealous. I can barely draw a stick figure. But I would make a friend with a wild bird if I had the opportunity.

Joan says she's going to explore other art forms next. She wants to return to studio painting with either oils or acrylics and pos-

sibly some printmaking. If you would like to contact Joan she can be reached through 1000 Kolo di Karibe paint store or you can message her directly via the FB messenger button on her page. (Her FB page shows a picture of an old tin sign depicting a cat.)

Loving animals of course is wonderful and terrible at the same time. We always outlive our animal friends. But what a great way to honor a bird that brought joy to so many human lives. Thank you Joan and thank you Coco the bird.

Story Ginny Knight / Photo Julie Morgan

Chocolate Sausage

**Chef Corjan Hoogerheide
Lekker Thuis Restaurant**



Chocolate sausage: 450 g (16 oz) dark chocolate (or whatever flavor you want) • 200 g (7 oz) unsalted butter • 2 egg yolks • 2 g (1/4 t) Bonaire coarse sea salt • 1/2 dl (17 oz) cream • Dash of liqueur (e.g. Amaretto, coffee liqueur)

Your tasty flavors: 25 g (4 large) marshmallows cut into pieces • 100 g (3/4 c) macaroons, cut into pieces • 10 g (1 T) cacao nibs • 200 g (7 oz) pieces of dried banana, dried sweet potato, coconut grater, cranberries, yellow raisins, pistachio, dried mango, hazelnuts

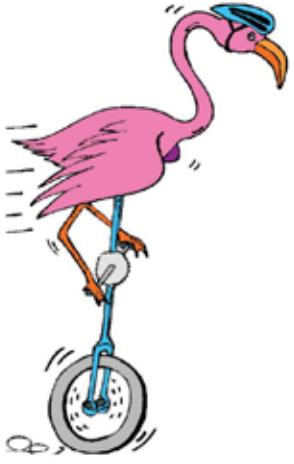
Melt the chocolate together with the butter in a large basin over a pan of hot wa-

ter. Stir in the cream and liqueur. Now stir in all the ingredients and let it cool in the refrigerator. Roll out some plastic foil and spread the chocolate on it in the shape of a hard sausage. Now roll up the plastic wrap tightly to create a firm sausage without air holes. If the chocolate sausage is hard, roll it in icing sugar for the salami effect.



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

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by Dee Scarr

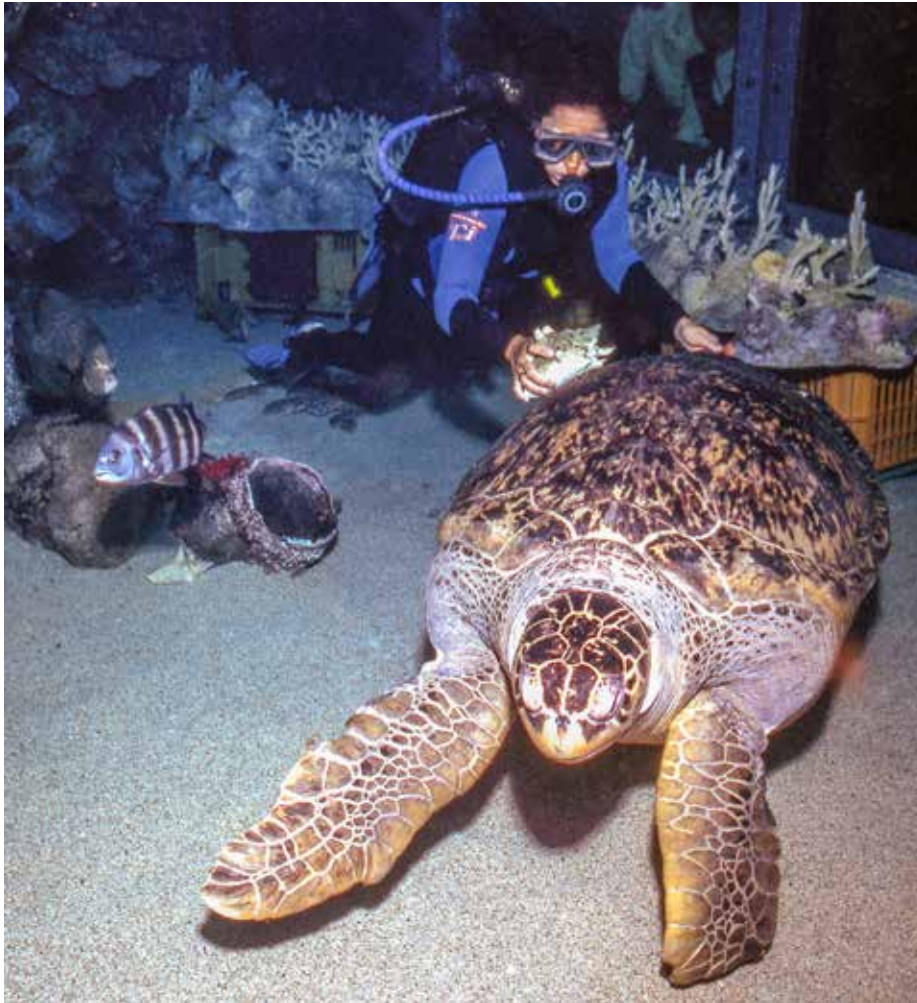
Barnacles (and Darwin)

I don't remember when it was that I learned that barnacles are crustaceans (in the same phylum as shrimp) rather than mollusks (closely related to snails). It wasn't a particularly significant moment for me, but it was moderately interesting. I'd seen barnacle "shells" that were scraped from the hulls of sailboats moored in Playa. I'd watched living stalked barnacles attached to dive platform supports, and seen the feathery structures that emerged from their shells and swept through the water.

What had never registered on me was that, structurally speaking, an acorn-type barnacle is essentially a shrimp standing on its head. The critter's body is protected by a cone consisting of six plates. The critter's head is cemented to a surface such as a boat hull, or to a stalk that's connected to a surface. The critter's feathery legs, called cirri, protrude through the opening of the plates and filter food from the water. At the slightest change of light (barnacles have three light-sensing organs), or alteration of water movement (which they feel), the critter zips its legs into the protection of its shell and all openings are slammed shut. There are over 2000 species of barnacles.

So, no matter how interested a diver may be in watching barnacles, keeping the barnacle from snapping shut almost immediately is pretty much impossible. And, since we have so many other, more cooperative critters to watch, we don't spend a lot of time on barnacles.

Still, some barnacle facts are more than moderately interesting. For example, barnacles have the longest penis, in relation to body size, of any animal – up



This turtle in the New England Aquarium has no barnacle hitchhikers, possibly because aquarists act as cleaners, like Holly Bourbon in this photo.

to eight times their body length! Obviously, this is a useful characteristic for a creature who is cemented to the bottom, who wants to mate with another creature who is cemented to the bottom!

Some barnacles are hermaphroditic (having both male and female reproductive apparatus), but they generally don't self-fertilize. Others are either male or female. Some barnacles invade other barnacles and become nothing more than sperm-producing parasites.

Despite the variability of their reproductive possibilities, barnacles are probably best-known, by people, for their ability to flourish on boat hulls. Since a barnacle-encrusted hull slows the vessel and uses more fuel, industries exist

solely to produce products that prevent barnacles from attaching to human-made items.

Barnacles also attach to just about anything else in the marine environment, including whales and marine turtles. Norine Rouse, the "Turtle Lady" of Palm Beach, knew that barnacles on turtles decreased their swimming efficiency and could even burrow through the turtle's shell or skin. Norine carried barnacle-removing tools on every dive, and several turtles, including a loggerhead she called Rajah, accepted Norine as a very special cleaner animal. The turtles would allow Norine to hover around them, to touch them, and to scrub their shells and skin. We saw similar sights off Sipadan Island, where resident green turtles often visited

wrasse cleaner stations.

Charles Darwin, in contrast to a modern scuba diver spending maybe ten underwater minutes looking at barnacles, spent years studying barnacles!

Yes, the same Charles Darwin whose Origin of Species changed the world of naturalists.

Darwin wrote Origin of Species shortly after the Beagle voyage, but he realized that its concepts were too extreme to be accepted from a person as young and unproved as he was at that time. He needed to establish a reputation, and he chose to do it with barnacles. He could not have foreseen what a huge and complicated group they were, but he stuck with his barnacles for a decade, dissecting thousands of specimens from all over the world, under a microscope. He published four volumes about the barnacles, and ultimately affirmed: "I hate a barnacle as no man ever did before."

But his studies did make his reputation, and the rest is history.

(Inspiration, and some information, came from Rebecca Stott's Darwin and the Barnacle (2003), a fascinating look into Darwin's professional and personal life.)



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

CAPTAIN DON RETURNS TO HABITAT



Pictured L-R: Habitat hotel manager Claire Sealey, Captain Don's partner Janet Thibault, artist Henk Roozendaal and Jan Kees De Hartog.

Captain Don Stewart is back at Habitat, at least in the form of a painting by revered artist Henk Roozendaal. Everyone entering the reception at Captain Don's Habitat will be greeted by the Captain, as well it should be. The painting was completed in 2006 and though Don was on crutches at the time, Roozendaal truly captured Don with his face looking forward and upward revealing his visionary and inspirational spirit.

Roozendaal's portrait style is unmistakable. On Bonaire since 1999, his work can be seen throughout the island on canvas, portrait books and the famous portrait murals at Cultimara (now Tops) of which Don was featured until someone painted over it this year.

The painting was donated by owners of Vista Blue shop at Habitat, Jan Kees De Hartog and his wife Jolanda Strik. The couple acquired the painting with the winning bid at a recent auction. When Jan and Jolanda saw the work slated for auction, they knew immediately they had to have it and place it at the dive resort Captain Don founded, Captain Don's Habitat, the home of diving freedom. In a small ceremony on May 30, commemorating 10 years since Captain Don's death on May 24, 2014, the portrait was revealed and placed.

Story / photo Julie Morgan

What's Happening

Animal Shelter: Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989.

Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm as well as for the cruise ships (schedule can be found at: <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 reopened May 11 at new location Kaya Gilberto F Croes. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus is raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

Terramar Museum Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20.

Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700

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

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

Washington Slagbaai Park: Open Tues. - Sun.. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

Open to July 2024	Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
April 26 -July 26	Terramar: SALÍ FO'R LAMAN Free. Discover importance and beauty of coral reefs. Exhibit is part of community program 'Bou di Awa' which is powered by WWF Dutch Caribbean. Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. .
Art Exhibits May-July	SACA Art Center Antriol. Kaya Korona 74. Open Wed - Sat. 3 - 10 p.m. http://www.sacabonaire.com Jozee Tjoa, May 4 - July 28.
Likely dates: June 7, 14, 21	Adult tennis competition for doubles. In principle, participants play 6 week-ends, Saturdays between 5 - 7 p.m. at Sabadeco and at Eddie's courts. Entry fee \$10 towards prizes. Info and registration via app with 599 782 4569 or info@bonairetennisassociation.com
Friday, June 14	RCN Job Market: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Shared Service Organization of the Caribbean Netherlands National Agency. Talk to employees and see which positions you can apply for, e.g. vacancies in communications, facilities, finance, HR, ICT and purchasing. See www.rijksdienstcn.com/vacatures .
June 16 - 23	Pride Week, 2nd Annual. On Sunday, June 16, Pride will open with a beautiful theater evening in collaboration with fundashon Kurason. "Huntu" (together) is the theme. See page 13. Order t-shirts (\$25) and tote bags (\$15) DM or +599-7869202
Friday, June 21	International Yoga Day at Seru Largu, 5:30 p.m. for a 5:45 start. Island yoga teachers and wellness presenters guide you on this Summer Solstice Celebration. Stroll through Seru Largu, then join us in yoga as the sun dips below the horizon. For info and RSVP contact Kelly +599 701 0110
Sunday, June 23	MoltenWolf Glass Ornaments Workshop: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$175 pp. First of three summer workshops. No experience necessary. All materials and equipment provided. Email MoltenWolfGlassInc@gmail.com . 8 people per class.
Saturday, June 29	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
July 8 - 19	Smart Summer School for groups 7 & 8 See page 13.

2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Thur. June 13	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Wed. June 19	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-1600	South	6630
Thur. June 20	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1600	South	3260
Wed. June 26	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Tues. July 2	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0700-1830	South	3260
Thur. July 11	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	0800-1800	North	2417
Wed. July 17	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	0800-2200	South	6630

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: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, June 16	Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's fishing line clean-up of Bonaire's south pier. See page 13.
Sunday, July 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Omina. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps 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 View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. 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>

Diver Safety. Presentations with Jason Buttenshaw held the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

Pickleball. Chinese Assoc. Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m.; Jong Bonaire Weds 6-8 p.m. this week only; Sand Dollar at Eddy's almost daily 8 a.m. Come join the fun. A sport for all ages.

Racing / Fevering. The Onima fever platform is available every Tues. Thurs. Sat. and Sun. 4 - 7 p.m.



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 at 7:30 p.m. June 17 - Divi Resort. June 18 **Tuesday** - Toucan Diving. [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Caribbean.Islands.Manta.Conservation). 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.

International Yoga Day

Friday 21st June 2024

17:30 for 17:45 start

Seru Largu

A collaboration of Island yoga teachers and wellness presenters to guide you on this special Summer Solstice Celebration



Take a serene stroll through the enchanting Seru Largu, then join us in yoga as the sun dips below the horizon, casting its golden gaze upon Klein Bonaire.



What to bring:

- Mat or towel
- Water
- Walking Shoes
- Insect Repellent
- Sundowner for afterwards!



For more information and RSVP contact Kelly: +599 701 0110

@FitforLifeAthletics



Free Community Event

Celebrate World Sea Turtle Day, Sunday, June 16 with STCB's fishing line clean-up of Bonaire's south pier.

Celebrate World Sea Turtle Day, Sunday, June 16 with Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's fishing line clean-up of Bonaire's south pier.

Check in at Dive Friends Dive Inn at 9 a.m. Don't forget to bring your dive certification card, Marine Park tag, shears/line cutter and a mesh bag. Tanks are kindly sponsored by Dive Friends Bonaire. The south pier is part of the red area on STINAPA's SCTL-D contamination map so remember to follow regulations, guidelines and decontamination procedures on your gear and limit your dives to one area per day.

If you would like to join, please send an email to cepa@bonaireturtles.org. Hope to see you there.

Photo Julie Morgan



Pride Week June 16 - 23

"Huntu, nos tei", "We are in this together" is the slogan for Bonaire's second annual Pride Week. Everyone in the community is welcome to the activities, most of which will take place at Eden Beach.

June 16 - Spoken Word Festival at Jardin de Amor, local and international performers, reservation required

June 17 - Movie at Empire Cinema

June 19 - Queeraoke/karaoke at Eden Beach Resort's rooftop bar

June 20 - Cuba Latin Night Pink Edition at location Cuba Compagnie

June 21 - Pub Quiz Pride edition at Eden Beach Resort rooftop bar

June 22 - Masterclass Diversity, Inclusion & Discrimination at Plaza Hotel, for those working in the social area and care

June 22 - Grand Party at Tera Kora Ranch with a DJ, live acts and drag king & queens

Smart Summer School fun and educational and only \$20



This summer, the Reading & Writing Foundation is organizing Smart Summer School: a fun and educational program for students in groups 7 and 8, where fun and education go hand in hand. Previously, the Summer School focused on learning the Dutch language, but nowadays the emphasis is on developing skills such as project-based work, collaboration and taking initiative.

Smart Summer school will take place from Monday, July 8 to Friday, July 19, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the morning the students work on projects in class and in the afternoon they play sports or go on an excursion.

please contact the primary school teacher or Miss Darly from the Mediabus on 599 7701484. You can also register directly by email at

leesenschrijvenbonaire@gmail.com.

Be quick, because full = full and it starts in a few weeks.

<https://www.facebook.com/lezen-schrijvenbonaire/>

Will you come and help as a volunteer?

The foundation is still looking for volunteers who want to help in the afternoon.

To register or for more information,

What are you going to do this summer vacation?



Meet Mini

Meet Mini, the .686 kg flamingo wonder chick at Wild Bird Rehab. Mini was found along the road weighing .214 kg and was perhaps a week and half old. She was taken to Elly at Wild Bird Rehab like so many other young and lost flamingos on Bonaire. Mini is thriving under Elly and her volunteer's care but it was touch and go for a while. Since March, Wild Bird Rehab has received 70 flamingo chicks and juveniles that were tired and malnourished. Most all were found on the southern roads of Bonaire.

Special wild bird food is needed for these youngsters to grow strong enough to be released back into the wild. The food can be purchased from Emerald.com in the U.S. through LafeberVet. Or if it is simpler just donate, follow this link: <https://www.mangrovecenter.com/bonaire-wild-bird-rehab/> Photo Julie Morgan



Public library is moving

Biblioteca Público Boneiru will be relocated to a different building by the end of the year.

The new library, located on Kaya Amsterdam, will have a wider range of activities for everyone. There will be a 'Makerspace' where young people can learn from creating things, such as three-dimensional items printed by a computer. The little ones will have a cozy corner for reading. Older visitors will have a separate room where they can learn how to operate a computer and how to arrange matters online.

The Kaya Amsterdam library itself is intended to serve only temporary. A totally new library, planned from the ground up, is expected to be ready around 2030.

DMR / Photo Julie Morgan



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Pets of the Week



Our cat of the week is Sam, a female nine month old tabby. Sam came to Animal Shelter Bonaire as a kitten with her brother, Sil, who was adopted several months ago.

Sam needs an owner who is patient and can wait for her to adjust to a new home. She will allow you to pet her but needs to come to you. Once she begins to trust you, she will be sitting on your lap in no time.

Our volunteers spend time with Sam daily to help her build trust with humans and she doing better every day. A calm household would be great for Sam. Come and meet Sam and take her to her forever home!

Sam is sterilized and has tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV.

Photo/story: Amy Bowen

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Or call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Dear humans

My name is Abel, I'm a happy eight month old boy

I have already experienced going on car rides, walking on a leash, going out for swims and playing with other dogs. I have met a lot of small humans and I love them all. But there is still one very important experience missing, to be a loving pet in a house with my very own family.

If you would like to meet me then I'm very excited to meet you too. If you cannot take me home, I'm always ready to go for a walk or swim. Come meet me.

Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt



Make Bonaire Accessible

Making the world a better place

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Before I started writing this, I was very busy making sea-glass art. It is a project MiVaBo set up for fundraising. MiVaBo is a foundation and does not make money, but we do spend money: copy-paper, a tank of gasoline, refreshments for when we take people swimming in special beach wheelchairs, etc.

If MiVaBo has a special project that we don't have the money for, we ask for a subsidy and that is how we get by.

It is very important for us that people know what MiVaBo is and what we do. And making and selling art is an excellent way to do so. You can ask for the items at Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga (thrift store) every Saturday and at their Cruise Market booth on cruise ship days. They sell our art and it's a great collaboration.

And since painted stones are very popular, we also decided to paint stones so people empathize with the importance of accessibility.

People may choose a stone they like and take it for free. We hope these stones put a smile on their faces and understand the meaning behind them.

While I am writing this, I find it hard to comprehend why accessibility is such a hard thing to understand. Anyone can acquire a handicap. They can be born with it, get in an accident or following a disease. And then you are expected to live with it? NO!

It is the surroundings that need to change, not the persons with a handicap.

MiVaBo is very happy that there are companies that ask them for advice and expertise before they set up a new project, building, etc. And that is the way it should be.

Our population is growing, and a big part of our inhabitants are elderly and Bonaire is not fully prepared.

So, what do we need to prevent, adapt and change to make our world a better place to live in?

Every project that is being set up or preparing to start should ask experts how to be prepared for the elderly and our handicapped citizens. Because making changes after the project is finished is very expensive and hard to adjust.

Sometimes restaurant or hotel owners think their establishment is accessible. But when we come and have a look, this is almost never the case.

Sometimes it is just a little trick or a small change, but it changes the whole story.

Everything about building and constructing accessible buildings and housing can be found on the internet. But good architects should also be familiar with the rules and regulations.

For the behavior on the parking places you do not need a college education; just don't park on a specially marked parking spot if you don't have a handicap. It is as easy as that. And always remember that in a wheelchair one always needs enough room to get in and out of the vehicle in that space. So, don't park too close to the handicapped spots.

It makes me very, very sad that I have to explain this over and over again. But people do not seem to care or tend to forget. So, go find a painted rock and remember accessibility for ever.



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.

Animal Shelter News

VOLUNTEER HANDYMAN NEEDED



Animal Shelter Bonaire is looking for a dedicated and reliable volunteer handyman or woman to assist with various tasks around the facility. Responsibilities include building and repairing fences, constructing and maintaining animal enclosures, setting up water hoses and other basic maintenance jobs. Even a few hours a week would be of great help.

What We Offer:

- A friendly and supportive team environment
- The chance to make a real impact on the lives of animals in need

- Flexible volunteer hours to fit your schedule
- The love and appreciation of our animals

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our animals while utilizing your skills and gaining valuable experience.

To Apply

Simply send an email to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you!

Marissa Lamers



Located just past Caribbean Laundry

“Dushi den mal Tempoe,” Praktikanan di Kambio opens at Sobremesa

For the last month, Sobremesa, House of Art, was converted to a work place for the Art and Science Lab Bonaire. This seems fitting as Sobremesa was created for the community of Bonaire as a space for imagination, creativity and dreams about future possibilities.

The results can be seen at the new exhibit “Dushi den mal Tempoe,” Praktikanan di Kambio that opened June 7 and will continue

through the June 13, 7 to 9 p.m.

The Art and Science Lab, initiated by artist Sharelly Emanuelsen, was established to explore the collaboration between art and science and stimulate innovation. The free Lab attracted 12 different artists and scientists. What you will find is a surprising combination of the past, present and possible future brought forward in some unusual ideas and pieces.



Participating were Jose Lucas, artist; Roxanne Emerenciana, artist; Sabine Engel scientist-artist; Sharelly Emanuelsen, artist and initiator; Raily Yance Aguirre, artist and coach; Meralda de Palm, artist/konosedo krioyo; Maideline Hooi-Martijn, artist/konosedo kri-

oyo; Ghislaine Monte, artist; Judmar Emerenciana, artist; Gregory Hooi, artist; Marieke Knol, artist and Femke Franckaert, artist.

Sobremesa is located at J.A. Abraham Boulevard 10.

Photos / story Julie Morgan



Pictured Above:
Judmar Emerenciana painted a pyramid of symbols of Bonaire’s past, present and possible future in a two directional painting of time. The painting can be viewed flipped upside down.

Pictured to the left:
Ghislaine Monte explored the use of an usual medium, the juice of Bonaire’s abundant aloe plant.
L-R: Anne Oleana and Ghislaine Monte.



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Manager Care

We are seeking a dedicated professional who can step into the role of Manager Care at St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF). In this position, you will lead our care team, emphasizing quality and inspiring to deliver exceptional service. You will oversee inpatient care, outpatient care, home care, front desk clinic, ambulance drivers, laboratory staff, midwife, physiotherapist, and radiology staff departments.

Your leadership will be crucial in ensuring our patients receive quality care. Collaboration with other management members is essential to meet our strategic objectives. Your hands-on approach will set a positive example and motivate others, while your strong communication and management skills will drive our mission of achieving excellence in quality patient care.

You will be responsible for:

- Ensuring continuous compliance with regulatory standards from the Dutch Inspectorate to ensure quality care delivery.
- Taking the lead in initiatives to enhance care quality across all departments, focusing on continuous learning and training for all team members and establishing a culture of safety and excellence within the organization through team development.
- Continuously evaluate service performance and take corrective action as necessary through service development strategies and enforcing operational policies and procedures in innovative ways to support efficient and effective care delivery.
- Providing strategic guidance and recommendations to management for continuous quality development and improve care practices, ensure alignment with organizational objectives and year plan, raise staff engagement, and increase community awareness of our services.
- Contributing to workforce planning, developing and optimizing efforts, and participating in financial budgeting, planning, and resource allocation activities to support organizational goals.
- Enhancing Employee Engagement – Developing and implementing strategies to foster a positive work environment, increase employee satisfaction and retention, and promote open communication and collaboration among team members.

Who are we looking for?

- A minimum of an HBO bachelor's degree in nursing, preferably supplemented with post-bachelor's management training.
- Five years of experience in a managerial nursing role.
- Strong managerial and team-leading skills, with the ability to stimulate and lead through coaching and guidance.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity.
- Analytical skills and the ability to utilize data for decision-making.
- Fluency in both English and Dutch languages.
- Residency on St. Eustatius or willingness to relocate to St. Eustatius.

About St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation

The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) manages the island's premier and only medical facility. Our dedicated team of 65 professionals includes nurses, doctors, supporting administrative staff, a midwife, a physiotherapist, a gynecologist, and specialized Practice Nurses for chronic care, ensuring comprehensive primary care services for our community.

At SEHCF, our commitment to excellence is reflected in our diverse range of health-care services. From outpatient services featuring general practitioner care and visiting specialists to community (home) care, emergency response, inpatient care, physiotherapy, and advanced diagnostic services in our laboratory and X-Ray departments. In short, we deliver primary care+. We work hard every day to be a good primary care + medical center, continually enhancing the quality of care for the local population.

We work closely with various stakeholders in our daily operations. For elective specialist care and emergency referrals we maintain strong partnerships with medical centers in St. Maarten and hospitals in Bonaire and Curaçao. Additionally, we work closely with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport and local public health organizations like GGD and GGZ.

What we offer

- A full-time position of 40 hours p/w
- Based on full-time employment, this position is classified according to the FWG system 3.0 and is scaled at level 65. The monthly gross salary starting from USD 4,700 to 6,000 (depending on experience).
- A competitive benefits package in line with our Collective Labor Agreement.
- Participation in the Dutch Caribbean Pension plan and the Zorgverzekering BES health insurance plan.

Interested?

We invite you to submit your resume with a cover letter, copies of your diplomas and certificates, and two references to SEHCF to Mr. Philip van Woerkom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, via email: hr@sehcf.org. Mr. Philip van Woerkom can also be contacted for questions via tel: +599 319- 7279.

Closing date: July 1, 2024

