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**Bizzy, Bouncy and Buzzy
need a furever home**
Photo Julie Morgan

Animal Shelter Bonaire holds unique fundraiser

Excited dogs looked out anxiously from their kennels and cats lounged in the Cat Palace as more than 400 attended the Animal Shelter Bonaire's Market fundraiser at the Shelter on August 17.

The market was a first for the Animal Shelter Bonaire (ASB) with specialty booths from local businesses donating a percentage of their sales and the cost of their stand to help the animals. In previous years, the Shelter has held book markets with a few thrift items similar to Pakus di Pruga, ASB's thrift store. This specialty market was unique, resembling more of a craft fair with little organized shops.

The Shelter's stand offered products for dogs and cats including collars and leashes, pet themed shirts and bags, and other items. Pakus di Pruga had a stand with clothes donated by Meant to Be, Bonaire Dushi Yu and Siermarmoza.

Lionfish Creations Bonaire featured their beautiful handmade earrings, pendants, rings and bracelets crafted from the fins of the invasive lionfish caught in the waters surrounding Bonaire. A popular stand was the beautiful clothing, bags and other items sold by Muriël.

Sue of Island Preserve Company sold her fabulous homemade condiments and Aletta of Aletta's Goat Farm had her freshly made goat cheese, milk and feta for sale. Stephanie Antonio sold her Esta Dushi nut and energy bars, granola, drinks and other food products while Mama Annekes Keuken prepared fresh healthy food to enjoy immediately.

At their Boneiru Dush Yu stand, Luuk Bastiaan displayed personalized made-to-order t-shirts and bags, and his wife displayed her

handmade pet treat containers. And ASB friend Audrey collected various treasures from her friends and family to sell to support the cats and dogs.

The kids were entertained with face painting and a bouncy castle sponsored by Jump n' Slide while the adults shopped.

The Shelter team was on hand at the market to accompany anyone stopping to pet some cats in the Cat Palace or to visit the

dogs and puppies. Unfortunately, none of the 155 dogs or 75 cats were adopted on the day of the market.

Animal Shelter Bonaire team is 13 people strong with 18 volunteers available to work on varied schedules. This number includes the staff and volunteers at the fundraising cruise market and Pakus di Pruga .

Thanks to the many vendors, hard work of the Shelter team and the market shoppers, the Animal Shelter Market yielded \$1768. In addition, the Lions Club of Bonaire dropped in with a surprise donation of \$250. All in all, this unique market was a success. Everyone left with at least one bag of treasures knowing also that they had helped the animals.

To prevent over population on Bonaire, ASB has employed a free sterilization program since 2004 in cooperation with Klinika Veterinario Bonaire. For more information about the program call 7174989/701/4989 or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



**Animal Shelter Market
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Abraham saves his Exec Council majority but loses Finance portfolio

In a meeting marred by shouting and recriminations, the Island Council voted to restore the Bonaire Democratic Party (PDB) minority government to power. Governor John Soliano had taken temporary stewardship of the Executive Council functions after the surprise resignations of commissioners Nina Den Heyer and Anjelica Cicilia left the executive body without a quorum.

When the smoke cleared, Clark Abraham had survived a 5-4 vote of no confidence (five against, one for, three abstentions). Then a new Executive Council was chosen. Cicilia and Den Heyer were replaced by two new, and also non-elected, members: Anthony Weber (M21) and Peter Silberie (PDB). (See the separate stories on each new deputy.)

Abraham kept his seat on the Executive Council, but to save his minority government from dissolution he had to surrender to Weber control of finance, operations, economic development, administrative affairs, and other portfolios. Weber was the nominee of M21 leader Daisy Coffie, who recently threatened to withdraw her support from the coalition if her party was not allowed to name its own deputy on the executive council.

Abraham remains the third member of the executive body and

still controls the majority vote because Silberie is a fellow party member and a long time buddy. Essentially Weber took over Abraham's portfolios and Abraham inherited Cicilia's jobs, most notably the Spatial Planning & Development directorate. Silberie has undertaken mostly Den Heyer's former portfolios.

At the Island Council meeting the opposition proposed that Governor Soliano order an investigation into the causes of the sudden resignations of Den Heyer and Cicilia. The motion was defeated. The coalition members said they preferred to look forward rather than backward.

New conflicts already seem to be simmering. Retired civil servants, for instance, feel cheated by Abraham because he refuses to honor agreements regarding early retirement. Newly elected deputy Weber has publicly sided with Abraham in the dispute. On the other hand, Weber also promised that if he became a deputy he would support the retirees.

Regarding another contentious issue, the island secretary, Christopher Frans, has warned civil servants to avoid contact with Cicilia and Den Heyer. Opponents say the secretary's action is a possible criminal offense because employers cannot legally deprive employees of their civil rights. *DMR*



The new commissioners (L-R) Peter Silberie and Anthony Weber Photo via OLB

Peter Silberie rejoins Exec Council after 25 years

Peter Silberie, one of the two new directors on the new Executive Council, has deep roots in old-style Antillean politics. He is a long-time member of Clark Abraham's PDB party and a close associate of Abraham. Supposedly he was nominated by Group Vrolijk so that the two minority parties supporting the PDB's minority government, M21 and Group Vrolijk, can now claim to have their own deputy on the Executive Council.

Silberie rejoins the Executive body despite a previous blatant ethical scandal. Silberie, along with Robbie Beukenboom and José Winklaar, were the Executive Council from 1995 until their party lost its majority in the 1999 election. Before resigning, the three invented new government positions. They appointed themselves acting heads, and gave themselves exorbitant salaries and permanent retirement benefits.

Jaime Saleh, Governor of the Netherlands Antilles at the time, annulled the appointments. The Council of State ruled that "The appointment decisions disregarded the regulations: the individuals involved were appointed to non-existent positions, did not meet job profiles, and were classified in a way that did not fit the structure of the relevant department."

Since 2012 Silberie has been interim director of the Indebon Sports Institute, a department under the Directorate of Society and Care. *DMR*

Weber brings educated perspective and broad experience to Exec Council

Anthony "Tony" Weber, one of the two new directors on the Executive Council, is a fresh presence in Bonairean governance. Daisy Coffie, whose M21 party nominated Weber, called him "an enrichment for our island government" because of his academic background and political experience on multiple islands and in the Netherlands. Weber holds the powerful Finance portfolio and others that Abraham held previously.

Weber, who is 37 years old, was born on Sint Maarten, grew up on Curaçao, and earned a graduate degree in Public Administration in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands he worked as a policy officer in the House of Representatives with the Caribbean portfolio and served as a group member for the political party Volt.

After returning to Curaçao, Weber worked for the General Court of Auditors for years, auditing public finances. He joined KUMUN, a political party that says it seeks modernization and cooperation.

On Bonaire, Weber has worked as a policy advisor for the Public Administration Office (OLB) in the Personnel & Organization department and is currently an employee at the RIEC CN (Regional Information and Expertise Center Caribbean Netherlands). RIEC CN works with various partners to combat 'undermining' crime. *DMR*

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We are taking a break.

Look for the next issue of *The Reporter* September 24.

Peiliker crowned Miss Universe Bonaire 2025

Nicole Peiliker was crowned Miss Universe Bonaire 2025 in an elegant ceremony on August 16 at Delphins Beach Resort. This is just the second year in more than 20 years that Bonaire has elected Miss Universe Bonaire to compete in the International event.

The crowd enjoyed singers and a dance group before the two candidates, Nicole Peiliker and I'Shilah Benita walked the stage in evening gowns and were asked the final questions that decided the vote.

Nicole who represented Kralendijk is 41 years of age, mother of four and married 15 years. She actively fights for children's welfare in the community and engages with children through sports. Nicole believes that sports, especially baseball which she loves, keeps children engaged and teaches discipline and punctuality. She hopes to inspire youth to believe in themselves and believe in their dreams.

Nicole will compete in the Miss Universe pageant in Thailand on November 21.

The Miss Universe Bonaire pageant was made possible by support from OLB, TCB, Cargill, WEB NV, Divi Dive Air, Nos TV and Grand Windsock.

Julie Morgan



(L-R) Ruby Pouchet, Miss Universe Bonaire 2024 with Nicole Peikiker, Miss Univere Bonaire 2025. Photo Julie Morgan

FOR SALE Kaya Aleksandrit 9 Charming Family Home



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 f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

POLICE REPORT

You can contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

Property crimes

Aug. 11. Unknown persons forced the gate and door lock and stole household appliances from a home on Kaminda Essequibo.

Aug. 10. During the night unknown persons entered the premises of a supermarket on Hanchi Amboina and stole a generator.

Aug. 9. At approximately 11 p.m. a theft was reported from a car parked on Julio A. Boulevard near Plaza Resort Bonaire. A wallet was taken from the car.

Aug. 4. Around 12:30 p.m. a man, 60, was arrested on Kaya Kachu for receiving stolen goods. A rented scooter had been stolen during the night while parked in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Krabè. The scooter was located at a residence via a tracker and the suspect was immediately arrested.

Aug. 4. A gray La Sauris scooter with license plate MF-4569 was stolen while parked locked in front of a residence on Kaya Tintorero.

Aug. 4. A theft was reported from a business on Kaya Tintorero. Unknown persons destroyed the battery box of a truck and stole two batteries.

Arrests

Aug. 11. Around 9:20 p.m. a caller reported that a man at a healthcare facility on Kaya Korona had vandalized the call-

er's car and threatened to kill him. The suspect left before the patrol arrived and couldn't be found. The next day, the man, 59, reported to the police station, where he was arrested.

Aug. 10. Around 7 a.m. the central emergency dispatch center received a report of a man assaulting a woman on Kaya Korona. Upon arrival, the patrol found only the woman. She gave a statement and described the suspect and his car. After a brief search, the patrol found the vehicle on Kaya Lisboa and signaled the driver to stop. The driver, a man, was arrested.

Aug. 7. Around 6 p.m. a man, 55, was arrested on Kaya Sirena. While in the presence of police he threatened to kill a woman.

Driving under the influence

Under the policy 'botsen is blazen' ('to collide is to blow') a breath test is given drivers in accidents.

From August 4 to 11, four drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Drivers who register a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis.

One driver had collided with a parked vehicle, one had crashed his vehicle into a wall, one was stopped by police for driving erratically, and one collided with another car. Two drivers were driving with-

out a driver's license or valid insurance.

One driver was given a two-hour driving ban and one driver's license was confiscated.

Traffic accidents

Aug. 13. Around 2:05 p.m. a hit-and-run occurred on Kaya Sonmontuno.

Aug. 11. Around 9:15 p.m. on Kaya Nikiboko South a car collided with the trailer of a pickup truck when it attempted to turn behind the pickup. The car's driver was fined because he was unable to produce a driver's license or insurance documents.

Aug. 10. Around 9:30 a.m. a car driver skidded and hit a lamppost on Kaya Nikiboko North while swerving to avoid a truck. Due to the damage to the lamppost, repairs were necessary, and the road was temporarily closed.

Aug. 4. At approximately 9:30 p.m. two cars collided head-on Kaya Amsterdam when one of the cars veered onto the wrong side of the road. Both cars sustained significant damage. Three victims, including minors, were taken to the hospital.

Aug. 4. Around 6:15 p.m. on Kaya Spelonk at Sabadeco Villas, a golf cart with two occupants crashed into the concrete fence of a house. The driver had turned the wheel sharply causing the passenger to be thrown from the golf cart.

Neither driver or passenger was wearing a seatbelt. The victim was taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Aug. 2. Around 1:20 a.m. on Boulevard Miguel Pourier, a motorcycle driver misjudged a curve, lost control and fell. When the police and ambulance arrived, they found the victim lying in the road and the motorcycle lying on the shoulder. The victim was medically examined at the scene and then taken to the hospital. As a result, a breathalyzer test could not be administered.

Traffic violations

From August 5 to 13, traffic police issued fines to: two drivers for failing to provide proof of insurance; a driver for riding a scooter without a helmet; a driver of a dirt bike for reckless driving and failing to comply when police ordered him to stop (his dirt bike was impounded); a scooter driver for driving without a license plate, a valid driver's license and insurance documents; and a driver who failed to produce a valid driver's license. On Aug. 5 two cars collided on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. One of the drivers was driving under the influence. Both drivers were fined for driving without a license and without insurance.

IOMC Road Rally begins September 4

For the 27th year the Iron Order Motorcycle Club (IOMC), otherwise known as the Caribbean Pirates, will hold their annual Road Rally September 4 – 8 in celebration of Bonaire Flag Day. Motorcyclist enthusiasts from Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten, the U.S. and the Netherlands are expected to hit the roads of the island with flags flying.

The road rally has become a tradition on Bonaire and is almost synonymous with Bonaire Day. Designed with bikers in mind, anyone can join the events if you have a bike. Even bikers on holiday can join by simply renting a bike from Rent-O-Fun, the headquarters for IOMC.

In a press conference on August 15,



L-R: Vice President Rinus, PR, Sergino Winklaar and President Edgar Reina

IOMC announced the schedule and particulars of this year's event. Similar to previous years, arrival day is Thursday, **September 4** when visiting bikers from other shores claim their transported bikes, enjoy a welcome party and join a chilling night ride from 7 – 10 p.m.

Day two, **September 5** is registration day at IOMC along with a warmup ride and DJ Captain Morgen and Mimoun for some musical fun.

On Saturday, **September 6**, breakfast is served from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at IOMC prior to the big Bonaire Flag Day ride around the island. In Rincon a lunch buffet is available for all riders at Scout. A return "chill ride" to Kralendijk is set

for 4 – 6 p.m. The day ends with Happy Hour at IOMC at 8 p.m.

September 7, bikers can clean off the road dust with a bike wash, followed by an island evening ride and a closing ceremony with Farley's Entertainment from 7 – 9:15.

Host hotels for IOMC Road Rally are Captain Don's Habitat and Eden Beach.

For more information contact Edgar at 796-2169, Sergino at 786-7176 or Orlando 786-2131. Email is caribbeanpiratesbonaire@gmail.com.

Story / photos Julie Morgan

Official Program

- THU 4TH UNLOAD**
WARM-UP RIDE 6PM
- SUNSET RIDE GATH. 5PM WELCOME PARTY REGISTRATION 8PM FRI 5TH**
- FLAG DAY RIDE SAT 6TH SEPT**
- FUN SOCIAL RIDE 4 PM CLOSING CEREMONY 8PM SUN 7TH**
- MON 8TH LOADING DAY THE END**

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.

An open letter To Gov. John Soliano, the Ombudsman and all it concerns:

Be advised that to date no substantive reply to my Objection and Counterclaim has been received by me or the Ombudsman after I received an errant bill submitted by C. Frans, the island secretary AND a criminal judge, after I made the complaint that Frans could not ethically, properly or legally hold both those positions at the same time in any internationally recognized system.

In keeping with local government custom, when the government does something wrong, they cover it up and do not respond. The Governor, J. Soliano, has on numerous occasions promised transparency and proper governance. By allowing Frans to hold both positions, not only will those things not be achieved, but the government will only become more corrupt due to the protections the situation affords.

To date, no one has been held accountable for:

1. the incomplete rotary/road work on Kaya Amsterdam;

2. the sale of land in a RAMSAR site (internationally protected);
3. the attempt to override an improper building development (too high, insufficient parking, inadequate fire control access);
4. the improper death of a crocodile and the governments subsequent failure to properly disclose details, let alone be accountable for violating an internationally protected species treaty.

There are many more that could be listed and should be prosecuted. It is clear that the Bonaire Government is corrupt and engages in extreme measures to avoid prosecution for their misdeeds, let alone attempting to correct them.

In my situation, the remedies are clearly outlined in my counterclaim and need to be enacted and enforced.

Please advise how that can expeditiously happen.

Respectfully,

Charles M. Baltayan, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
I'm considering listing my house on Bonaire for sale but my extended family doesn't want me to sell it, what should I do?
Mikey D, San Diego

Mikey – That's a great question, and thank you for asking. When my clients are thinking about selling their home, sometimes the children or other relatives don't want them to sell because they like the idea of having a house on a tropical island where they can visit anytime they want, it doesn't cost them anything to own, and they can use it for free when they visit.

In reality, I find that those same relatives never actually use the house. They like the idea of a vacation home, but usually they are too busy with work, children and their own lives to actually get away to a somewhat distant place like Bonaire for vacation. I often advise my clients it might be cheaper for them in the long run to sell their house now, and then pay for the children's vacations on Bonaire than it is to keep the house and pay the costs of the ongoing maintenance and taxes on the house.

If you decide to list your house for sale please contact me at info@bonairehomes.com, the real estate market is good right now, when we get to November we will start into our busy season for selling.

Best Regards, *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

CN government providing info for young offenders



“Making mistakes is easy. Coming back stronger is power.” That is the slogan of a government campaign underway this month that targets youth who are under supervision, those at risk, and parents who need guidance.

The Stichting Reclassering Caribisch Nederland is informing young people and their parents about juvenile criminal law, particularly juvenile probation services. The campaign explains what happens when a young person comes into contact with the justice system and how juvenile probation can provide support.

The message is clear: making mistakes can happen, but how you deal with them makes all the difference. Young people who want to move forward and parents who want to help can find information at www.reclassering-cn.com. *DMR*

Ecuador community celebrates

Bonaire residents from Ecuador celebrated the 216th year of their country's independence on August 10 with an event featuring food, drinks and games at the centro di bario in Amboina. A representative from the Netherlands brought new and renewed Ecuador passports for nine individuals.

The traditional food of Arroz con minestra, a combination of beans, rice, salad, chicken or pork was served, several entrepreneurs set up small stands with health products, food and jewelry and some attendees played volleyball.

There are some 300 Bonaire residents originally from Ecuador.



BONHATA attempts unsuccessful end run around Abraham

During the recent government hiatus when Island Governor John Soliano was temporarily acting as the Executive Council, former provincial executive Jolinda Craane sent him a letter on behalf of the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA). The letter urged the Governor to use his authority to pay an overdue bill on behalf of the Public Body (OLB). It also urged him to break the governance deadlock regarding the structural shortage in the marketing budget of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), to preserve crucial air links to North America, and to clarify TCB's management and mandate.

The immediate issue is apparently Abraham's refusal to pay \$6 million owing to WestJet, United, and Jet-Blue airlines under the seat guarantee subsidies signed in 2015, when Abraham was a member of the Route Development Committee that created the guarantee arrangement according to Craane.

The longer term issue, BONHATA maintains, is Abraham's refusal to budget systemic support for TCB which threatens both the island's economic stability and the confidence of residents and entrepreneurs. "Anyone who, as a director, signs agreements and later denies them is not only acting politically reprehensibly, but also damages the trust of partners and creditors. Anything less is a breach of promise, a breach of policy, and downright mismanagement," Craane said.

The Governor refused BONHATA's request, saying it would exceed his temporary authority. *DMR*

Bees close Rincon recycling center

Swarming bees have forced Selibon NV to close the Morotin recycling center near Rincon. In mid-July two workers accidentally disturbed a beehive near Fuik on Curaçao. The consequent attack killed one man on the spot and sent the other to the hospital with serious injuries. *DMR (BES Reporter)*

Yes, the island is growing faster than expected

Bonaire currently has 26,600 residents. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) predicts that ten years from now the population will have grown to 34,200. Only recently the CBS was projecting 30,500 as the 2035 population. That's an increase of 7,600 occupiers of space. Immigration will account for most of the growth. Sint Eustatius and Saba are predicted to have reduced populations by 2035. *DMR*

Court says Mariadal can withhold evidence from prosecutor

Citing the legal protection of personal medical information, the court on Bonaire has ruled that Fundashon Mariadal does not have to surrender camera images of the hospital to the Public Prosecutor. The Prosecutor is investigating the two shootings the night of June 8 when a 15-year-old boy was killed. Reportedly, suspects in the case may have gone to the hospital for treatment that night. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Caribbean central banks working to by-pass US banking system

Four Caribbean central banks are piloting a new payment system designed enable real-time, low-cost cross-border transactions in local currencies, bypassing the need for U.S. correspondent banks. The Caricom Payment and Settlement System (CAPSS), led by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), will initially involve Barbados, The Bahamas, ECCB member states, and one other country yet to be confirmed.

DMR (BES Reporter)

Proposed increases include slightly higher property tax on hotels

In 2013, when the hotel business was lagging, the government reduced the property tax on corporately owned hotels. Now that the tourist sector is booming again, the government is gradually restoring the hotel tax rate to the level charged other property owners. The increases, which began in the 2025 tax act, are going to be spread over twenty years. The effective tax burden for hotel owners this year is 0.44% of the value of the real estate. The 2027 burden will be 0.48 percent.

The lower tax rate set in 2023 acknowledged that most hotels are located on large properties that are appraised at a very high value because they have a sea view and favorable wind conditions. At the time, those advantages were not translating into sufficient profitability.

DMR

Bonaire to be connected to new submarine data cable

When Bonaire is connected to the CELIA submarine data cable in 2027, the island will have more reliable and stable internet access. Saba Statia Cable System BV (SSCS) which is 100% owned by Dutch government recently signed an agreement with Aruban telecom company SETAR, one of the initiators of the CELIA cable. The submarine data cable, will connect Aruba, Martinique, Antigua, Puerto Rico and Boca Raton in Florida. The CELIA cable will be extended not only to Bonaire, but also to Curaçao in 2027.

Preparations for the installation of the submarine cable are already underway. A marine survey vessel will be visible off the coast of Bonaire in the final week of August. The vessel will travel between Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, using advanced sonar equipment to map the seabed in detail.

Seabed Mapping

"To lay a submarine cable, the seabed along the planned route must first be accurately mapped — including depth, elevation changes, coral, shipwrecks and any other obstructions. We are consulting with organizations such as STINAPA Bonaire, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, and Rijkswaterstaat. Based on this marine survey, the final route of the cable on the seabed will be determined," explains Werner Haan, director of SSCS.

Enhancing digital services, supporting economic development and increasing self-reliance are among the Dutch government's key priorities. The Dutch government has also provided €4 million in subsidies to telecom providers on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba to further expand the fibre optic network on the islands.

RCN release



The marine survey vessel StatiaBorg, owned by JW van Stee BV / Royal Wagenborg Offshore BV, moored in Sint Eustatius. Photo courtesy of Wagenborg.



Summer School kids and instructor Kate and Paul have some fun at the new school with their destination signs. Photo Julie Morgan



Instructor Enzo and some kids display the model they crafted of the new school building. Photo Julie Morgan

Kids complete Summer School

Youth and Future Foundation's Summer School for the Bonaire Reading and Writing Foundation (Stichting Lezen & Schrijven Bonaire) just completed their first summer school with 27 students in a newly renovated building they can call their own. The school, headed up by Paul Ruiz, has ample space for students to learn in a comfortable environment with three classrooms, a kitchen and an art and crafts room.

The two week summer school focuses on giving kids from other countries the tools to navigate in Bonaire's school system. The summer school is designed to prepare them for the International School on Bonaire before they head into the Island's normal school system which is taught in Dutch. The kids age 12 – 17 have been on Bonaire for less than a year and originate from Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Dominican Republic and Haiti. The majority speak Spanish, a little English they've learned from television and music, a little French and some Dutch.

The school day begins at 7 a.m. with 15 minutes of exercise and some breakfast to energize them for classes at 8 a.m. From

8 a.m. the school day ends at 12:30 with a short break at 10. The Dutch classes are designed for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels with subjects on government, democracy, math and reading. Lunch is at 1:30 and then they head out for some summer fun with tennis classes at Eddy's courts and swimming lessons at Cha Cha Cha Beach.

During the two week school, several speakers visited. A representative from OLB explained the importance of attending school, a Venezuelan guest spoke about life on Bonaire and a representative from Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire gave a talk in Dutch on the island's turtles and environment. For fun and to see a bit more of the island, the kids enjoyed a trip to Sorobon and a visit to Lac Kai. A bus was donated for transport during the two weeks so the school had only the fuel costs.

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Bonaire's Sunfish Team trains for the Worlds



BSSA team heading to Sunfish World Championship L-R: Gilbert Martis: 10 / 2nd / Apprentice Master; Ramon "Yellowman" Martis: 35 / 17th / Grand Master; Paxienrocqu Martis: 1 / 1st / Junior and Open; George "Kabes" Soliano: 42 / 15th / Grand Master; Ton Nuijten: 65 / 9th / Great Grand Master; Hans de Waard: 60 / 4th / Great Grand Master and Dedrie Pedersen: 3 / 3th / Women and Open

The BSSA Sunfish Team Bonaire will be competing in the Sunfish World Championships held in Ecuador from December 4th to 13th, 2025. In week 1 of the World Championships, the Juniors, Women and Master will compete for the World titles. In week 2, the Open category participants will race for the World Championship. 85 Sunfishes will be on the start line. Bonaire is well represented with a team of seven sailors.

On Saturday, August 16th, The Bonaire Sunfish Sailing Association (BSSA) officially introduced members of the BSSA Sunfish Team Bonaire. On this year's team are Ton Nuijten, Hans de Waard, George Soliano, Ramon "Yellowman" Martis, Gilbert Martis, Dedrie Pedersen, and Paxiënrocque Martis. All wore their

championship team shirts during an afternoon of training exercises in the bay of Kralendijk. The light wind conditions provided an ideal simulation of those anticipated in Ecuador.

Following the training session, team members gathered at Kas di Regatta for a celebratory toast to express their gratitude and appreciation to sponsors and supporters. Sponsors of the team shirts include MCB Bonaire, Between2Buns, Budget Marine, Dive Friends, Sebastians, Ezone, Sunbelt Realty, Alfa & Omega N.V., Chogogo, the Wassinks, Woodwind, Bonaire Affair, Blue Garden, Buena Vista Optics, Kanti Awa, Hans de Waard, and Bio Aesthetics. OLB Indebon provides financial support by subsidizing a significant portion of the expenses.

In the coming weeks and months, select team members will participate in both the Curaçao Championships and the Bonaire Regatta as part of their ongoing preparation to represent Bonaire and achieve excellence in competition.

For updates, follow the team via Facebook at [Bonaire Sailing School Association](#).

Contact:
sponsoring@bonairesailingclub.org
 WhatsApp:
 7967055 (Dedrie Pedersen, sailor)
 7955225 (Elisabeth Vos, President BSSA)

*Story Elizabeth Vos,
 Photo Julie Morgan*

A fundraising event for the team will be held on Sunday, August 31st

A BBQ afternoon with live music by the Silver Bullets at Kas di Regatta, celebrating the sailing club's 30th anniversary.

Advance tickets are available for \$20. Community members are encouraged to support the team by contacting the club for ticket arrangements.

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Animal Shelter Market from page 1

To maintain the Shelter and care for the many animals, the cost per month is large. They receive a small yearly supplement from the government. If you would like to help you can make a donation to support the Shelter.

In Euros: Acct: Animal Shelter Bonaire; IBAN: NL40RABO0137748744; Bank: Rabobank (Dongen, Netherlands)

In dollars: Acct: Animal Shelter Bonaire; Acct #: 102.378.00; Bank: Maduro & Curiel's Bank, Bonaire Branch; Bank

address: Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #70, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean; SWIFT/BIC: MCBKBQBN

Animal Shelter Bonaire is located at 26 Kaminda Lagun and open Monday – Friday 11a.m. – 3 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. for more information visit <https://animalshelterbonaire.com> or on its Facebook page.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Your Health Matters:

Open Day for Cancer Screening August 27

On Wednesday, August 27, 'Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland' will host an Open Day at Fundashon Mariadal as part of the population screening for breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colorectal cancer.

Between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., healthcare professionals will be available to provide information about the screening process, the health benefits, and the importance of participation. You can also make an appointment directly for one of the population screening programs.

Bevolkingsonderzoek (Population Screening) has already been offering

cervical cancer screening (for women aged 30 to 60) and breast cancer screening (for women aged 50 to 75). Since April 2025, both women and men aged 55 to 75 can also participate in the colorectal cancer screening.

Do you have questions or would you like to register for the population screening? Visit us on the Open Day or contact us via: Tel. +599 715 9200, WhatsApp +599 7810476, or send an email to screeningCN@rivm.nl.

Visit our website www.screening-CN.com for more information and follow us on Facebook and Instagram 'screeningCN'. *News Release*



Bonaire's sky park

See full video at: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>

Astronomy 101: Shortcut to Sky Degrees"



How far away is Cassiopeia from Cepheus or from the Big Dipper?

The sky is always moving but the distances between its constellations stays the same. Astronomers measure these distances using degrees – but Trace Dominguez of stargazersonline gives us a hack. And to do it, all we need are our fingers.

The horizon is 0° and straight up is 90° and 360° of sky exists all around us.

Here is the hack. If you stick out your arm – your pinky is about one degree,

three fingers is five, a fist is ten and a Hawaiian shaka is 25.

Let's try it by looking at the moon as it passes by Saturn. If the moon is about 27 degrees from Saturn – it's about one shaka. If the distance between the moon and Saturn narrows to a fist and a few fingers it would be about 15 degrees. And when the moon is only 2 degrees away, that would be two pinkies.

Trace Dominguez, stargazersonline

Summer school from page 7

Summer school began August 4 and ended at Hillside with a certificate of completion ceremony and a fun swim in the pool to celebrate. In the fall, the children will attend the International School.

School instructors Paul, Drencha, Eve and Kate agreed the kids were eager to learn and worked hard. Several of the Spanish speaking kids admitted the Dutch was sometimes difficult. Enzo, an

instructor from FORSA helped several of the kids construct a model of the new building in the arts and crafts classes. Cost for the two week summer school is \$20 per person to cover the food, drinks and a cool Summer School logo t-shirt.

For more information contact Paul Ruiz at +599-782-4569 or email lezenschrijvenbonaire@gmail.com

Fiesta Fundraiser to support Rocqui Martis

Foxy Flamingo II, invites you to Fiesta Fundraiser on August 24, 2 – 5 p.m. at their new location (formerly Happy's) to raise money to assist BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) newest and youngest Sunfish sailor Rocquis Martis. Rocquis is part of the BSSA team competing in the 2025 ISCA Sunfish Worlds Championship in Salinas, Ecuador this December 4 – 11.

Fiesta Fundraiser will feature yummy Mexican food and drinks with a \$5 entry fee for the fundraiser and 10% of the discounted menu of specialty tacos, margaritas, beer and other drinks going to Rocqui's trip fund.

Rocquis, known as "The Pebble in Motion" is a proud Bonaire native and fifth generation sailboat enthusiast who has been making waves on the water since he was nine.

Come out to Foxy Flamingo II and enjoy some amazing Mexican food and drinks and help Rocquis compete this December in Sunfish Worlds Championship Open category and Sunfish Youth Worlds.

Your donations will support his success.

4QJ3+6V, Kralendijk
info@foxyflamingo.com
+599-786-3925

where: **FOXY FLAMINGO 2**
when: **SUNDAY, AUGUST 24th**
time: **2:00pm - 5:00pm**
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The more you enjoy the more we donate!!!!

Slavery Memorial Committee Opens Office on St. Eustatius

On the evening of August 12th, the Slavery Memorial Committee officially opened its office on St. Eustatius.

During the ceremony, speeches were delivered by Committee Chair Astrid Elburg, Commissioner for Culture Rechelline Leerdam, Head of the St. Eustatius office Raimie Richardson, and Lucia Beck, Director of the Slavery Memorial Committee in the Caribbean region.

Astrid Elburg opened with a powerful message: “We open the doors of our new office here on St. Eustatius. But symbolically, we are opening something far more important: a door to belonging, to unapologetically being. A door to a future in which the full truth of our history is honored.”

Commissioner Leerdam added: “May

this office stand as a testament to our past, a forum for dialogue in our present, and a beacon of hope for our future, a future where we continue to transform from victim to victor, standing tall in the strength of our shared heritage and the resilience of our community.”

Raimie Richardson noted that: “Emancipation is not borrowed or given; it has been there from the very beginning – woven into the fabric of who we are since the dawn of time. It is something that resides within us, something we claim and nurture through understanding, pride, and resilience.”

He concluded his speech with a call for unity: “Let this memorial be a beacon, not only of remembrance, but also of strength. Let it remind us that our past is not a chain, but a stepping stone. And as

we look ahead, let us walk forward with pride, purpose, and unity.”

Lucia Beck closed the speeches: “Today marks a new beginning. Together, we are stepping into a new chapter – one filled with truth, healing, and transformation. We are going to achieve great things – not for ourselves, but for the generations yet to come. For those who will one day walk these streets, hear these names, and know they belong to something greater.”

After the speeches, the Torch of Emancipation was presented to Joshua Spanner and Ishn Courtar, symbolizing the transfer of knowledge between the older and younger generations. Joshua Spanner has been a force behind the commemoration of the abolition of slavery on St. Eustatius. Long before the Netherlands issued



its apology, he tirelessly fought for recognition. Upon receiving the torch, he remarked: “It was never about a torch. It was always our ancestors walking.”



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The new office further strengthens dialogue, education, and remembrance in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom

The St. Eustatius office is the Committee’s second office in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. On May 25th, the office in Curaçao opened its doors. In the Netherlands, an office has been active in The Hague since April. Together, these three locations serve the entire Kingdom. Curaçao and St. Eustatius were chosen specifically because of the prominent role both islands played in the history of slavery.

With the opening of the office and the

evening’s exhibition, the Slavery Memorial Committee aims to contribute to ongoing dialogue, education, and awareness – both on St. Eustatius and throughout the wider region.

The evening’s expo ‘US: Where Past and Present Meet’ traced the history of slavery from before the transatlantic slave trade to the Netherlands’ apology for its historic role in slavery.

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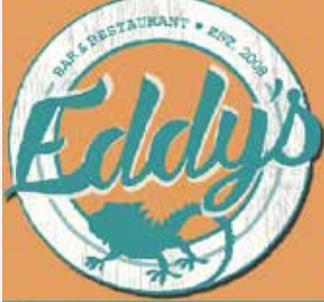
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A Garden? Just Do It! - Kiwano

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Have you ever heard of this fruit?



On the left you see a Bonaire cucumber. It looks almost the same as the kiwano, shown on the right. Photo Angliet Baidjoe

To grow the plant, the seeds must be sowed 2-3 centimeter deep in pots or containers set on a sunny windowsill or in a greenhouse. Planted seeds will germinate in 3-4 weeks. The root system develops quickly and the plants will grow rapidly. When big enough they can be replanted in a sunny sheltered growing spot in rich well-draining soil. Be aware of iguanas just like with the leaves of the Bonairean cucumber as it's a dinner feast for them. A climbing structure like trellis or fence works well. Water the plant once a week deeply in the base of the plant, not on the leaves otherwise they will burn.

Give the soil time to dry between the watering. Use organic mulch to prevent weeds and retain water and heat. The young plants grow rapidly, crawling over everything in their way. Kiwanis loves warmth of about 20 - 35C (68 - 95F). The tropical weather of Bonaire is perfect for this sun lover.

A large number of fruits can be harvested when the plant grows under good conditions with good care.

The best time to grow this plant is in the rainy season which will begin soon. If you have grown the Bonairean cucumber successfully, you will know how to handle this plant. When harvesting, use garden gloves because of the prickles. Kiwanos can be stored in the fridge or in a cool place for about 10 days.

If you don't have a garden, you can grow this plant in pots on your balcony. How cool to see green, yellow and orange fruits as a Christmas decoration crawling around and above your balcony. The seeds can be ordered online from Holland or other seed selling countries. This is a good way to make Bonaire more self-sustainable through urban gardening.

I like to introduce new garden stuff to Bonaire. Fruit varieties are so important for our daily health and our body condition. But fruit is sooo expensive in the supermarkets nowadays and the quality is not always good.

Try to grow some easy fruit like the kiwano and see how you enjoy growing your own food. So just do it, it's never a loss.



Angliet Baidjoe grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and

grown her own food.

Creating Optimal Health - The Fallacy of Justice

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Almost every culture trains children from an early age to believe justice is not just desirable but right. This cultural repetition makes justice feel natural, even inevitable.

Our deep embedding of the idea of justice comes from a mix of evolutionary, social, and psychological factors — it's almost a cocktail of biology, culture, and personal cognition.

From an evolutionary perspective, fairness helped small human groups survive. Behaviors such as resource sharing, and reciprocal cooperation increased group cohesion and survival chances, so they were reinforced, while freeloaders were punished and segregated.

Once humans began building larger societies, fairness evolved into formalized justice systems. Laws, religious codes, and moral teachings turned fairness into a social virtue, embedding it into our stories, rituals and collective identity.

On an individual level, cognitive psychologists have observed that perceptions of justice are highly subjective and prone to bias. Our sense of fairness is shaped

by cognitive shortcuts like the just-world hypothesis — the belief that good things happen to good people and bad things to bad people. While comforting, this bias can lead to victim-blaming and an inability to confront systemic injustice honestly. The psychological need to see the world as just can therefore distort both our reasoning and our moral action.

Epicurus, the Greek philosopher, described justice as a mutual agreement among people designed to secure peace and reduce fear. Once the conditions of mutual benefit changed, so too could the rules of justice. This relativistic perspective undermines the idea of a fixed, universal justice and reframes it as a flexible tool of social cooperation. The Sophists suggested that laws and justice often serve the interests of those in power. Even Plato's dialogues wrestle with the possibility that what is called "justice" in practice may be little more than the codified advantage of the stronger party.

Modern psychology adds another dimension to this critique. Albert Ellis, the founder of Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT), cautioned against what he called musturbatory thinking — rigid demands we impose on ourselves, others,

or the world. Many people, Ellis argued, emotionally disturb themselves with beliefs such as "Life must be fair" or "People must treat me justly." When reality fails to comply, the result is often anger, bitterness, or despair. In Ellis's framework, the fallacy lies not in wanting fairness, but in demanding it from a world that operates according to complex, often indifferent forces.

Justice is embedded in us because it served an evolutionary function, was amplified by cultural systems, meets deep psychological needs and delivers emotional and social rewards. It's not surprising that letting go of its absolutism, as the Epicureans or Ellis suggest, feels almost unnatural. Because it is so biologically and culturally ingrained, many of us turn it into an emotional demand, "People must treat me fairly" or "Life must be just." When reality doesn't cooperate, it feels like a personal betrayal. The inherent fallacy is assuming that a stable, absolute standard of fairness exists and that it can be implemented without distortion.

The fallacy of justice emerges as two-fold: first, the mistaken belief that justice has an immutable, universal form; second,

the cognitive error of treating justice as a guaranteed feature of reality rather than a fragile, human-made construct. The Epicureans remind us that justice is a tool, valuable only insofar as it serves mutual benefit in a given context. Ellis and cognitive psychology remind us that clinging rigidly to justice as a personal demand invites emotional suffering.

A more resilient stance might be to pursue fairness as a guiding value while accepting its imperfection and impermanence. In doing so, we can work toward just outcomes without succumbing to the illusion that justice is ever complete, final, or guaranteed.



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

Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.

Reef Glimpses - *Barracuda Buddies* by Dee Scarr



“With their jutting lower jaw and mouthful of sharp teeth, a Great Barracuda hardly looks friendly.”
Coulombe, *The Seaside Naturalist*. Photo Dee Scarr

Imagine a dive buddy staying right with you, hovering just over your shoulder, looking at everything you're looking at, turning when you turn, stopping when you stop. I've had two kinds of experiences like that.

The first was when I was a new diver, diving with another new diver. I was always impressed with how closely my buddy Mark stayed with me, especially toward the end of a dive – until I finally realized he was stealing air from my safe second stage! I hadn't noticed because he'd swum in my blind spot and had great buoyancy control...

Great buoyancy control was also a characteristic of my other “perfect dive buddy” experiences. In those cases my buddy wasn't stealing – or even using – my air, because my buddy didn't use air, because my buddy was a fish. Not just any fish, but one of the scariest-looking fish around: a barracuda.

Seeing the snaggleteeth of a barracuda out of the corner of my eye, less than a hand's-width from my ears, was unsettling. Seriously unsettling. It didn't help that the 'cuda was ten feet (3 m) long. Okay, maybe six feet (2m) long. Okay, maybe only 3 feet (1m) long. My human buddies were equally freaked out.

This happened when I was a new, new diver, off South Florida.

Peter Benchley, in *Shark Trouble* (2002) described drifting through a school of barracudas in the Gulf Stream

“... each one's mouth looked like a Swiss army knife open for display. Their eyes stared at us with the blank serenity of the invulnerable ... in their world, these creatures were supreme. They went where they wanted, ate what they chose, and feared no living thing.”

Just for the record, though, barracudas rarely hurt people. According to Coulombe in *The Seaside Naturalist*, “The surest way to be injured by a Great barracuda is to eat it.” Happily, not so much on Bonaire, barracudas, especially large ones, are often poisonous to eat.

Back in the late '70's, dive operator Steve Klem fed fish in the Florida Keys. Klem would hold a baitfish tail in his teeth so a barracuda could zip by and grab the baitfish. I don't recall him ever being injured during this routine, which exhibited the barracuda's excellent eyesight and prey-catching ability.

Klem was diving in clear water, of course. I had an experience with a large barracuda once on a *low-visibility* day off South Florida. My buddy and I were swimming slowly, wishing we could see farther than the maybe 20 feet (6m) of vis we had. Suddenly something appeared from nowhere, zooming directly at me! Before I could take evasive action, when it was only inches

(cm's) away from crashing into my mask, it swerved away. As it bolted out of sight, I realized it was a barracuda.

I spent a lot of time trying to understand that, until a retrieval when I was a divemaster on San Salvador presented the answer. I'd found a towel on the sand bottom and was carrying it back to the boat when I realized that a couple of smallish barracudas had left their posts at the surface and were approaching the white cloth. They got close, lost interest, and cruised back to the surface. I experimented, and learned that waving the towel brought them back, and that waving my palm to catch the light brought them back even faster.

The zooming 'cuda must have seen a flash of light reflected off the single round glass of my mask, figured it was a struggling fish, and only realized at the last moment that it wasn't. Whew!

Have you ever seen a barracuda interacting in any way with another barracuda? Me neither, which explains why barracudas are believed to spawn offshore, probably at dusk or at night. Fertilization is external, with parenting consisting solely of males and females simultaneously spewing sperm and eggs into the water column. The fertilized eggs will drift, hatch, drift, and mature, settling as miniature adults in shallow, grassy or shaded environments such as Lac Bay or near shore on Bonaire's west coast. They reach sexual maturity between two and about five years.

Barracudas easily take care of their basic living requirements – acquiring food and reproducing – which leaves them with a great deal of spare time. Couldn't it be that some individuals relieve their boredom by bud-dying up to scuba divers? And if so, are they knowingly, deliberately, purposely unnerving, or are they just innocently curious?

Scarr's accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don's Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award (“the Emmy of the diving world”) in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.



Beetroot salad with chocolate gherkin by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



Salad: 50 g (1.7 oz) Chocogurk from Kesbeke, in cubes • 2 cooked beetroots, sliced • 50 g (1.7 oz) soft goat cheese • 1 sweet and sour gherkin, sliced into rounds • 1/4 apple, cut into balls or simply cubed • 1 slice of sweet bacon • 6 small oyster mushrooms • 6 walnuts • 10g (.35 oz) Fried onions

Dressing: 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar • 1 tablespoon sesame oil • 2 tablespoons olive oil • 1 teaspoon honey • 1/4 onion, finely chopped • Pepper and Bonaire sea salt

Stir all ingredients together and marinate beet slices in it. Divide the beetroot slices over two plates and garnish with all the ingredients and serve with slices of crispy toast, possibly raisin bread.

The Chocogurk is a chocolate bar filled with pickle. It is white chocolate in which real pickle is incorporated, so you can taste both sweet and sour in one bite. The product is the result of a collaboration between pickle maker Kesbeke and candy store chain Jamin. To find chocolate with pickles go to Jamin Bonaire on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid.



Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares the recipe for a personal dish created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients. Corjan is currently working as a Sous Chef at “The Reef Bar” at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.

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. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 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.): Kaya Gilberto F Croes, just past Caribbean Laundry. Saturdays 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus 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/terramuseumbonaire/>

SACA Art Center Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public.

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)

Sunday, August 24	Fiesta Fundraiser for 15 year old Sunfish sailor Rocqui Martis 2 - 5 p.m. Foxy Flamingo II. Donation \$5. Great prices for Mexican food and drinks. See page 9.
Monday, August 25	Silvetty de la Paz, Speaker "She Leads in Business" 4 - 7 p.m. \$150/\$200 Delphins
Tuesday, August 26	Free fish ID class 7 p.m. Trans World Radio. Led by Carmen Toanchina. we'll Dive into the world of Blennies — those cute, charismatic, and wonderfully little reef dwellers Learn about the beautiful fish of Bonaire and become a citizen scientist through REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project .
Wednesday, August 27	Open Day on Cancer Screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer Fundashon Mariadal. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. See page 9.
Friday, August 29	Ocean film with David Attenborough. Free at Parke Isidel Starts just after sunset. See page 13. For info on film visit: https://www.oceanfilm.net/home/
Saturday, August 30	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Theme: <i>Do not eat cactus soup and clean your hands in my hair.</i> Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/ Lac Bay Day 4 - 6 p.m. Free food and drinks, fun activities for kids, a special boat trip with STINAPA rangers and opportunities to meet and connect with the island's nature organizations. See page 15.
Sunday, August 31	Afternoon BBQ fundraiser for Bonaire's Sunfish team at Kas di Regatta, celebrating the sailing club's 30th anniversary. Live music by the Silver Bullets. Advance tickets are available for \$20. https://www.facebook.com/BonaireSailingClub/ . See page 8.
Wednesday, Sept. 3	Free Self Defense Class for Women 6 - 7 p.m. Jong Bonaire. Taught by experienced instructors. Register via: luchanty@deltasecuritybonaire.com
Saturday, Sept. 6	Bonaire Day Public Holiday Music festival \$40. Tutti Frutti Musical group. Pianist Alexander Kraft van Ermel with the music of Curaçao composers. See page 15.

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, Sept. 14	Clean Coast Bonaire. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Church Services

Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon–6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m./10 a.m.

International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO): Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services in English.

United Protestant Congregation

- **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. Services in Dutch
- **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps meeting: Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Saliña, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

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

Beach Tennis Bonaire Free. Everyone welcome. Sportpark Rudy Boezem. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>

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

Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).

Diver Safety. Hosted by Jason Buttenshaw who holds presentations the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

Fish ID course. Free. 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Held last Tuesday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire. ALL WELCOME to this very social sport. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Happy's Food & Drinks (road to Sorobon). We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. GET RID OF YOUR DRUG ADDICTION Monday 19:00-20:00. Kaya Tanki Matrimonio 30. Dutch & Papiamentu. Call Wensley 700 7289 or Remco 784 1782.

Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group. Every other Wednesday 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m. the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

Pickleball. • Chinese Assoc. Kaminda Lac, Blue Building: Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 3 to 5 p.m. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire Contact Michiel Bijkerk, tel: 796 2650, e-mail: abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com

Sunfish Race Days: Barring inclement weather: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook.

Tennis Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome. Free Kid's Clinics 8-12 for beginners. Register: email info@bonairetennisassociation.com or app 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> **Tennis Mixed Competitions.** Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts. Match days are Sept. 21& 28, Oct. 4, 18, 25, and Nov. 1.



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 at 7:30 p.m. No Manta Presentations Aug. 25 – Sept. 8. Presentations resume Sept. 15th! :) Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire. Come to an informative presentation on restoring Bonaire's coral reefs. Questions? email: info@reefnewalbonaire.org



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> **2025 sea turtle nesting season** May to December. Join a nest monitoring patrol on Klein Bonaire. M, W or F. \$40 donation for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (and residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/monitoring-patrols/>

Sobremesa **Kas di Arte** View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**

- Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
- Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. August 20	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. August 26	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CONQUEST 3783 guests	North
Thurs. August 28	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	South
Wed. September 3	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. September 9	1500-2200	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. September 10	0900-1800	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Thurs. September 11	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. September 17	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. September 24	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. September 25	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Fri. September 26	0700-1700	CARNIVAL CONQUEST 3783 guests	North

Music festival on Bonaire Day



On Saturday 6 September we celebrate Bonaire Day together. In the evening you can indulge in a fantastic music festival, a gala concert in the great and cool hall of Van der Valk Plaza Bonaire. We kick off this festive gathering with a swirling performance by Tutti Frutti. Of course, with a familiar, but also always new and surprising performance. Music, song and dance do belong to our island and to us.

After enjoying a free drink during the break, it is the turn of a phenomenon: Alexander Kraft van Ermel has established a special bond with the music of the Antilles in his youth on Curaçao. He received piano lessons from his grandfather Wim Status Muller (1930-2019). Wim Status Muller stamped his compositions on Caribbean party music. His dances: tumbas, dansas, mazurkas and

waltzes have been described as 'Chopin with a Caribbean twist'. Alexander performs extensively to promote and tell about the music of Curaçao composers. In 2021, Alexander performed at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, together with Izaline Calister and Jean-Jaques Rojer. On Saturday, September 6, you can witness Alexander's driven piano playing interspersed with short expository texts and personal anecdotes and stories. With works by Chopin, Status Muller and other Antillean composers. And who knows, there may be room for a dance, because music and dance go hand in hand.

Tickets at \$40 are currently available for this gala concert at the well-known retail locations: Delmar bookstore (pin and cash) and Lisa Convenience Store (cash). Don't wait too long to secure a spot at this festive event.

Are You Interested in Bonaire's Geology?

Everyone who loves Bonaire has questions about the island's geology...How was the island formed and when? What is the actual composition of the island's topographical structures? Is Bonaire a volcanic island? All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by the well known André Nahr.

The class will be held in September: Tuesday 23, Thursday 25 & Saturday 27 at the new library, located at the District Shopping Mall in Hato.

Session one and two are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and session three brings everything together in a fun field trip on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand examples of Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested, but no heavy hiking is involved. The class is taught in English (with explanations in Dutch & Papiamentu, if needed).

Cost is \$140.00 p.p. payable in cash at the first session.

Sign up at geology.andrenahr@gmail.com but don't wait too long, only 15 spots are available! Don't miss the opportunity to learn about Bonaire's fascinating geology!



Lac Bay Day 2025 ahead

STINAPA Bonaire, together with your favorite local nature organizations, invites everyone to join them for Lac Bay Day on Saturday, August 30 from 4-6 p.m. at Sorobon. This free, family-friendly event celebrates the beauty and importance of Lac Bay, while highlighting how climate change is affecting our island's nature and what we can do to help protect it.

Visitors can enjoy: free food and drinks, fun activities for kids, a special boat trip with

STINAPA rangers and opportunities to meet and connect with the island's nature organizations.

Lac Bay Day is a unique chance to learn more about Bonaire's precious ecosystems, meet the people working to protect them, and discover practical ways to take climate action, while having a great time with friends and family.

Come celebrate Lac Bay with us. Together we can protect our island's nature for future generations.

Jessica Johnson

Yhanni's features Iago



Brazilian musician Iago Marcelina performs Sundays at Yhanni's
Photo Julie Morgan

If you are looking for a way to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon of live music then it's time to head to Yhanni's Arepas. Brazilian musician Iago Marcelina performs in what feels like an impromptu performance by one of your own friends. His unplugged music is some of the best I've heard on Bonaire and he plays literally anything and everything.

We dropped in one Sunday and heard Iago sing an amazing array of songs including Kansas, Bob Marley, Jobim, Prince Lynard Skinner, Goo Goo Dolls, Hall and Oats, Leonel Richie, Rolling Stones, John Lennon... the list goes on. If you want to hear something just request it and he'll play it. And if there

is a song he doesn't know, then send him a message during the week and he will learn it and sing it the next Sunday. The entire performance is done on an acoustic guitar with some percussion and backup vocals thrown in from a musician friend like Edwin Arrindele.

Drop by Yhanni's some Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m. and listen to Iago, join a game of dominos and dine on Yhanni's Arepas, the best on Bonaire. And of course there is beer, wine and other drinks.

To learn more about Yhanni's and Iago Marcelina da Silva visit them on Facebook.

Past tsunamis have moved large stones onto Bonaire

During the past 1,000 years multiple tsunamis have moved huge stones up to 250 meters inland and as high as 7 meters above the current sea levels on Bonaire and Aruba. On Curaçao one large stone was moved ashore. The heaviest of the 21 stones studied weighs 175 tons.

An international team of researchers announced these findings in “[Coastal boulders placed by extreme wave events impacting the ABC islands](#),” published in the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*. They used drones, photogrammetry and digital altitude maps to determine the size, distance to the coast, and height of the blocks. Then they used computer models to calculate the minimum wave speed required to move such massive objects so far. Radiocarbon dating of the corals and vermetid snails in and on the blocks determined when the stones were moved.

According to the computer modelling, storm waves such as hurricanes would not have sufficient power to move the heaviest of the stones. Only tsunamis, likely caused by earthquakes along the so-called El Pilar break off the Venezuelan coast, could have generated the required force. *DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad)*

Photo: A researcher performs a land-based SfM/MVS on a boulder in Boka Onima on Bonaire.



SfM/MVS, or Structure from Motion and Multi-View Stereo, is a photogrammetry technique used to create 3D models from a series of overlapping images. Photo Source: [“Coastal boulders placed by extreme wave events impacting the ABC islands”](#)

A first for Bonaire

A first for Bonaire — and a huge moment for our coral breeding program! On Tuesday, August 12 our Reef Renewal team collected pillar coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) spawn for the first time on Bonaire, and crossed our fingers for successful fertilization. The next morning, we woke up to swimming pillar coral larvae!

Pillar coral is one of the Caribbean’s rarest species, highly vulnerable to stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD), with only a handful of colonies left on Bonaire. Breeding this species is an important step in safeguarding its future, and we couldn’t be more excited to see these first larvae in the lab.

A special thank you to Stichting DierenLot, whose generous donation of our lab microscope made it possible to capture these incredible close-up views of our



pillar larvae. Stay tuned as we continue to raise and monitor them, with the hope that one day they’ll return to Bonaire’s reefs as healthy, resilient adults.

Also. Spawning season is here, and Reef Renewal needs your observations. Several coral species — including pillar coral, boulder brain coral, staghorn, and elkhorn — are predicted to spawn in the coming days. If you’re diving on Bonaire during the spawning window, you can help by sharing your observations.

If you spot spawning, please note: Species observed • Spawning start & end time • Number of colonies spawning • Brief description of location (e.g., depth, distance from entry/exit) • Photos or videos • Send your info to volunteering@reefrenwalbonaire.org.

For predicted time windows for each species in Bonaire, check out [CARMABI’s spawning calendar](#) at their website, or in the end pages of the online [Bonaire Reporter](#).

Source: Reef Renewal Facebook.

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) was happy to welcome

31 divers and one shore support volunteer for the cleanup dive on August 17 at the North pier.

Floor van Schalkwijk, Communications and Fund Development Officer of STCB, said, “We collected about half a big bucket of fishing line and strange objects: two goat head carcasses, two pairs of sunglasses, two sunheads and a long rope.”

The next cleanup dive will be in mid to late September. Visit the STCB and Reporter Facebook page for events and times.

(L-R Susan Porter, Ernst Mulder and Mirjam de Leeuw)
Photo Julie Morgan



Buckley's Books by George Buckley

OCEAN: Earth's Last Wilderness by David Attenborough and Colin Butfield

This book is also available in audible form and as a documentary on National Geographic. A film viewing on Bonaire is scheduled by Bonaire Nature Platform and WWF on August 29. (See page 12)

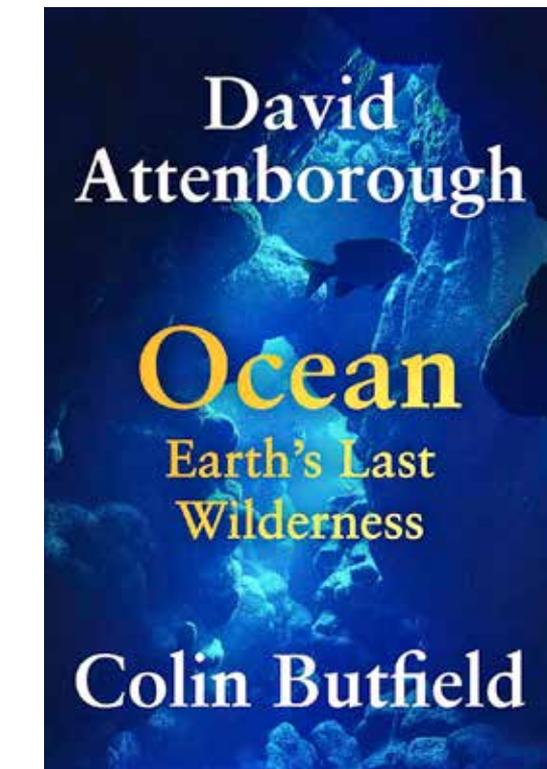
A recent must read from naturalist, author and film maker Sir David Attenborough and Colin Butfield of Ocean Planet Studios. This is a very readable and comprehensive look at the world's oceans, their sea life and the importance to life on this planet. Having worked together for many years on David Attenborough's Oceans films, they have put to print hundreds of vignettes about their observations and experiences with the added benefit of Sir Attenborough's many decades of natural history endeavors as he complete his 99th year on the Ocean Planet! The animals, plants and ecosystems of the oceans are the cast and crew in this engaging enterprise with numerous diagrams and high quality images to help tell and illuminate the stories.

They begin with the "Lifetime story of a single Blue Whale," describing it's most likely experiences in its some nine decades at sea and the happenings, discoveries and technology advances in research that occurred on land and sea during that time.

In the chapter on "Coral Reefs," the unrivaled biodiversity of the reef is explained, their vital role in coastal ecology investigated, the impacts of human endeavors on them is detailed as is the critical role of Marine Protected Areas, using the Eastern Pacific's Cabo Pulmo as a prime example of success.

In venturing into "The Ocean Deep," Sir David even took a research submarine dive into the Coral Sea to see for himself the complex ecosystem that includes some 95% of Earth's biosphere!. In exploring the depths of the sea, sea floor denizens, valuable biological compounds, unique ecosystems such as deep sea vents and the importance and peril of deep sea minerals are discussed.

"The Open Ocean" explores the massive ocean area from the surface to the bottom of the sea. The major interactions between the atmosphere and the surface of Earth take place in this vast area that covers some two



thirds of the planet's surface, while the Twilight zone and the dark abyss below hold immense numbers of organisms of untold ecological interactions and importance, as the ocean currents move the sea water around the planet.

Coming closer to shore, the immense value and importance of "The Kelp Forest" and its myriad denizens is investigated as are the complex ecosystems found there and the many intricate species interactions... including the story of the kelp, the sea urchins and the sea otters.

Traveling to "The Arctic", the story is one of explorations, discoveries, dynamic ecosystems, the importance of sea ice and more recently the numerous human caused environmental impacts on this area critical to Earth's climate .

Going towards the equatorial regions brings the coastal "Mangroves" to the fore; these tropical coastal forests of several varieties and their diverse habitats such as sea

grass beds, provide many ecological services such as coastal nesting, breeding and feeding areas, nurseries for young sea life, various fisheries and flood and erosion controls. Over development and shrimp aquaculture operations have had serious impacts on mangroves, but efforts to create Marine Protected Areas have slowed and in some cases reversed damage.

"Oceanic Islands and Seamounts" act as way stations for numerous species and homes to others, while playing an important role in ocean ecology and biodiversity, especially of birds and turtles and often to human populations too.

As climates change, "The Southern Ocean" gains in importance for its complex and often critically important ecosystems and multifaceted international management protocols. The face of the southern ocean is it's dynamic but threatened populations of penguins and walrus and yet from krill to whales there much more to be concerned about.

Attenborough and Butfield complete their story with "A Single Human Generation" as they look at what has and can happen with the ocean in one generation and what the possibilities and hope are for the next. Attenborough notes that he is convinced that "as more people enjoy and come to understand the natural world, the greater the hope of saving it and ourselves becomes."

For those who desire more details, the authors have provided numerous chapter notes and references and a very detailed and useable Index.



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.

Make Bonaire Accessible - *Things to do when it is hot* - by Ria Dokter

We all know this time of the year when hurricane-season starts, it is hot in our Caribbean area. The winds that normally blow and bring cool air seem to have disappeared. Every now and then you can sense the coolness and that is such a great feeling.

Heat is not very stimulating, and most people are less productive. When you are lucky to live in a house that "catches" the wind you are blessed. And if the cooling gusts cannot reach your home it is time to do something that keeps you cool.

Reading on your porch is so nice, and you do not have to go very far. But if you are not so lucky, you need to go somewhere else. Down the boulevard at the sea-side is always wonderful. Especially now that we have that swimming-pool-area in place. The only thing is, when you have a disability, you cannot get in there yet. The ramp is not finished so you need to come up with another plan. You might try to go there when Indebon has activities over there with the great beach/sea-wheelchairs. It would be a good idea to call and ask them, to be sure they will be there.

You could go to Parke Isidel. They have a ramp there

but you will need assistance and it's not always available.

You could also go to the library, once you are in the neighborhood. Alas, you cannot get where you need to be as there is a staircase but no elevator. So you are there but cannot do exactly what you wanted to do.

You might try Chachacha beach. But is it really accessible? There is a holding bar, you can hold on to but when you are dependent on a wheelchair, this is not the place to be.

Once a month the "Sorobon Swimmers" enjoy the wonderful water and have fun. Every participant gets a volunteer to help and all Saturday morning is guaranteed to be a good time.

When I sit down and think about accessibility, I always wonder why one does not plan ahead. What is needed to guarantee accessibility and how do we work that out.

I always get the feeling that accessibility is never much thought about when planning a building or planning otherwise. I understand that it is not easy, but it is

doable. There are clear guidelines available and there is money available through special funds.

It is very hard and sad that persons with disabilities always seem to be forgotten during the planning process and that should not be the case. There should be a starting point when planning builds because renovation is very expensive. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Remember: persons with disabilities are mostly at home and hardly leave, because it is hard to leave the home and even harder to get where you need to be.

PLEASE, BE CONSIDERATE.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she 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.

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Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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



Manny

This is Manny

We think he is around 1 year old. Manny is one of the cats we rescued from a home with over a 100 abused and neglected animals. It took quite a while to get his trust in people back. But now Manny is thriving now and his

white and grey colored fur is nice and fluffy and beautiful again. He is also at a good healthy weight.

Manny is still a bit shy, and needs some time to get to know you, but he is the sweetest boy and loves cat treats. We really hope someone can give Manny a second chance and the loving home he deserves!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet Spike

Spike is a sweet, sensitive dog of almost 5 years old, who has been living with us in the animal shelter for 2.5 years. Despite that long wait, Spike is still a good boy!

Spike has a very special gift: he senses exactly when you need love. When you are sad, he will quietly come to you and rest his head on you, as if to say: "I'm here for you."

He prefers to be close to people all day long, cuddling or even trying to sit on your lap, even though he's a bit too big for that. He also enjoys going out with you, especially by car and to the beach. His soft, loyal character makes him a very special dog and the most loyal friend you could ever wish for.

Will you give Spike the chance to finally leave the shelter behind and be completely himself?

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers



Spike



Can't adopt Spike yourself, but still want to do something for him?

You can now virtually adopt him through our new website! Just scan the QR code to go straight to his page.

Queen Conch Released in Lac Bay to Help Save the Species



Measuring a recovered conch

The pilot project *Conquer the Future* was recently completed on Bonaire. The goal of this project was to investigate whether it is possible to help restore the queen conch population by releasing juvenile farmed animals into the wild.

During the project, around 150 juvenile conchs were released into the seagrass areas of Lac Bay. Before the release, a small transmitter (PIT tag) was placed on the shells, allowing researchers to track them, even when they hid in the sand or among the seagrass fields. For a year, researchers collected data on their growth, survival, and movement. All conchs grew well, indicating there was sufficient food. Some stayed near their release site, while others moved up to 32 meters per week, especially when food was scarce or currents were strong.

The survival rate of the juvenile conchs was good, but the research showed that a more spread-out release is preferable. If they are too close together, predators can catch multiple animals at once. Additionally, some conchs were taken by people despite the ban. This poses a major threat to successful restoration.

For future large-scale outplanting projects, it is therefore important that fishing regulations are well enforced. It's also necessary to continue raising awareness about the role of the queen conch in nature and the importance of protecting it. The queen conch is not only important



for marine ecosystems but also has great cultural value for the islands.

Over the past 18 months, researchers, students, and nature organizations collaborated on this project. STI-NAPA Bonaire led the project, with technical advice from Carmabi. The young conchs were bred at the Queen Conch Hatchery at the Sea Aquarium in Curaçao. The animals were transported by boat from Curaçao to Bonaire by the cooperative FKUP. Piskabon helped set up the pen in the sea where the conchs acclimatized before being released. The project was funded by WWF-Netherlands and Seacology.

WWF-Netherlands /
Photos Michiel van Nierops



Kaki the Cactus

Nature lover and *Bonaire Reporter* columnist Angliet Baidjoe has published *Kaki the Cactus*, the third in her series of story books set in Bonaire.

Four of her tales have been made into little 10-20-minute cartoons in four languages. Originally shown in the Netherlands, they can still be seen on YouTube. *Kaki the Cactus* can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81QpIKWxFu0>

Kaki Cactus lives on Bonaire in a garden around a big house. She enjoys watching the new families from different countries who keep moving into the house. But after the last family moves out, the house is empty for a

very long time, and Kaki Cactus feels lonely. She devises a plan so that soon another new family will move into the house.

Like the cartoons, Angliet wanted the books to be in four languages so every child could not only read the stories in their own language of Papiamentu, Dutch, English or Spanish but learn others.

The production and publishing of Angliet's books are financed by the Netherlands letterenfonds (Dutch Foundation for Literature).

The books will be distributed to every school and Bonaire's Public Library. A few books are available for sale at Bruna.



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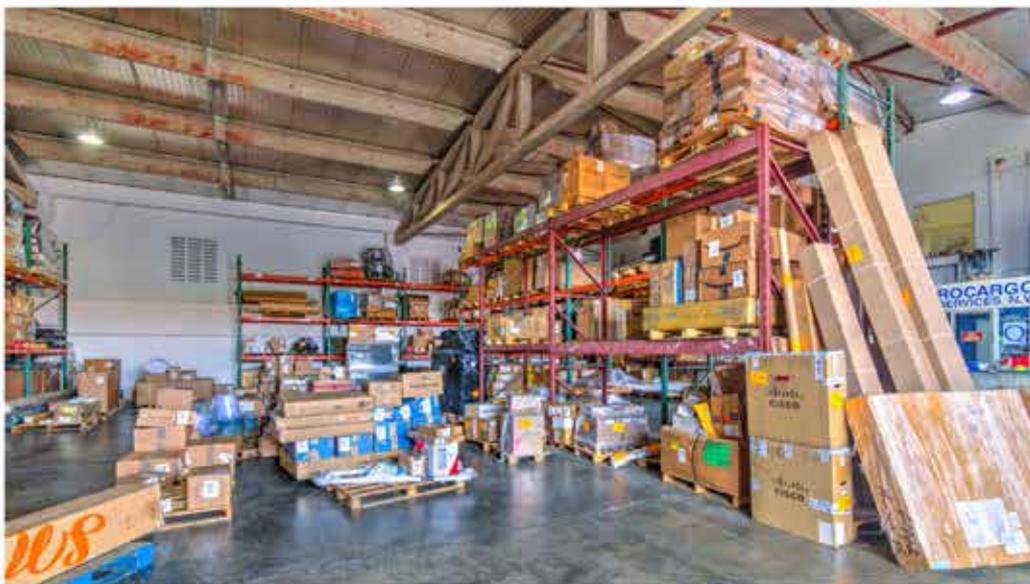


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BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE **JULY 2025**

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

These data are preliminary figures.

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
16,653 **2025**

All non-residents are registered as visitors

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
14,320 **2024**

2025 COMPARED TO 2024

16.3%

Increase in non-resident arrivals



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

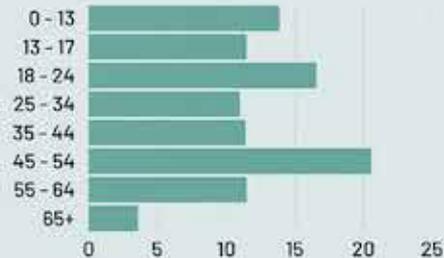


TOP STATES & REGION

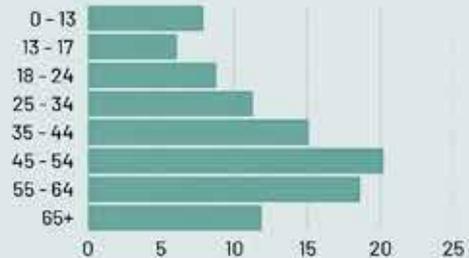
- US** New York, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, and California.
- NL** North Holland, South Holland, North Brabant, Gelderland, and Utrecht.

DEMOGRAPHICS

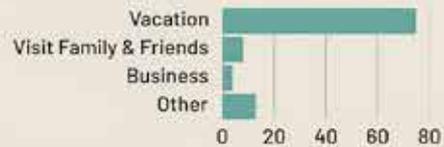
AGE | DUTCH



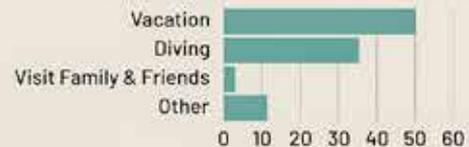
AGE | AMERICAN



REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH

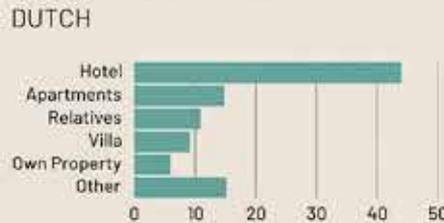


REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN

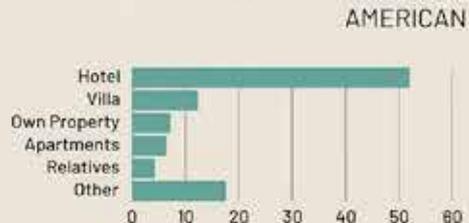


VISITOR BEHAVIOR

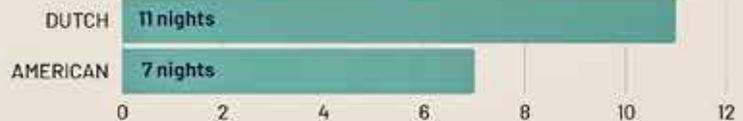
ACCOMMODATION TYPE | DUTCH



ACCOMMODATION TYPE | AMERICAN



LENGTH OF STAY



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

2025

Dear spawning community, wow, 2024 was rough. Corals in our region suffered from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease plus the hottest year on record. By fall spawning season, surviving corals were too stressed to spawn and much of the Caribbean saw nearly complete spawning failure. But this year, the water is cooler and surviving corals are spawning. We do suggest watching for an extra month if possible, because early full moons and cooler water may delay spawning as corals recover/recalibrate. Wishing a prolific spawn to all!

August Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM*	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Sat 9-Aug	Sun 10-Aug	Mon 11-Aug	Tue 12-Aug	Wed 13-Aug	Thu 14-Aug	Fri 15-Aug	Sat 16-Aug	Sun 17-Aug	Mon 18-Aug	Tue 19-Aug	Wed 20-Aug	Thu 21-Aug	Fri 22-Aug
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS-10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:58 PM	6:57 PM	6:57 PM	6:57 PM	6:56 PM	6:56 PM	6:55 PM	6:55 PM	6:54 PM	6:54 PM	6:53 PM	6:52 PM	6:52 PM	6:51 PM
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral						7:12-10:42 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)							5:46-7:06 PM		
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								7:20-8:50 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30-90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								7:25-8:25 PM (Peak in first 30 min)							
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			8:28-9:38 PM												
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral			8:23-9:38 PM (Understudied in August but spawns for multiple weeks in Sept-Oct; please help us explore this window!)												
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140-190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral			9:18-10:08 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Aug 6; this species varies its spawning dates in our region)												
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150-190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral			9:28-10:08 PM (As early as Aug 6)												
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral								10:01-11:06 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral								10:01-11:11 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200-270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								10:15-11:25 PM							

*FM is very early on Aug 9: we suggest starting dives a day earlier than usual

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean 2025, continued

September Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Sun 7-Sep	Mon 8-Sep	Tue 9-Sep	Wed 10-Sep	Thu 11-Sep	Fri 12-Sep	Sat 13-Sep	Sun 14-Sep	Mon 15-Sep	Tue 16-Sep	Wed 17-Sep	Thu 18-Sep	Fri 19-Sep	Sat 20-Sep
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS-10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:41 PM	6:41 PM	6:40 PM	6:39 PM	6:39 PM	6:38 PM	6:37 PM	6:37 PM	6:36 PM	6:35 PM	6:34 PM	6:34 PM	6:33 PM	6:32 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral								6:48-7:48 PM (Expected nightly to at least Sept 27; new observations welcome any date)							
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:54-10:24 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								7:02-8:32 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30-90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								7:07-8:07 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)							
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:53-11:08 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90-150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral								8:09-9:09 PM							
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			8:11-9:21 PM												
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral						8:06-9:21 PM (Spawns from at least mid-Sept to mid-Nov; new observations encouraged!)									
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140-190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral			9:01-9:51 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Sept 5; this species varies its spawning dates in our region)												
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150-190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral			9:11-9:51 PM (As early as 9/5)												
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160-255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral								9:19-10:54 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral								9:44-10:49 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral								9:44-10:54 PM							
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195-280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral						9:54-11:19 PM									
<i>Pseudodiploria clavosa</i> (210-255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								10:07-10:52 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200-270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								9:57-11:07 PM							
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral								all night							
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral								all night							

With early full moons and cooler waters, Sept/Oct corals may shift toward Oct more than usual

October Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Mon 6-Oct	Tue 7-Oct	Wed 8-Oct	Thu 9-Oct	Fri 10-Oct	Sat 11-Oct	Sun 12-Oct	Mon 13-Oct	Tue 14-Oct	Wed 15-Oct	Thu 16-Oct	Fri 17-Oct	Sat 18-Oct	Sun 19-Oct
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS-10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	SUNSET	6:22 PM	6:21 PM	6:21 PM	6:20 PM	6:19 PM	6:19 PM	6:18 PM	6:18 PM	6:17 PM	6:17 PM	6:16 PM	6:16 PM	6:15 PM	6:15 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral								6:29-7:29 PM (Expected nightly to at least Oct 26; new observations welcome any date)							
<i>Montastraea cavemosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:35-10:05 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25-115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								6:43-8:13 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30-90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								6:48-7:48 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)							
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75-270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:34-10:49 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90-150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral								7:49-8:49 PM							
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90-160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			7:52-9:02 PM												
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral						7:47-9:02 PM (Expected nightly across the October lunar cycle; new observations encouraged on any date)									
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160-255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral								9:00-10:35 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185-250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral								9:24-10:29 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185-255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral								9:24-10:34 PM							
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195-280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral						9:34-10:59 PM									
<i>Pseudodiploria clavosa</i> (210-255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								9:48-10:33 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200-270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								9:38-10:48 PM							
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral								all night							
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral								all night							

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean 2025, continued

November Corals

	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
		5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov	9-Nov	10-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	13-Nov	14-Nov	15-Nov	16-Nov	17-Nov	18-Nov
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	SUNSET	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral							6:17–7:17 PM (Expected every night through the end of Nov)							
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral							7:22–10:37 PM							
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral		7:33–8:48 PM (Has been observed from mid-September to mid-November, new observations are highly encouraged!)												

Fall Sponges, Stars, Gorgs, and More

	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DATE	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug	19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug
		7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep	11-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep	14-Sep	15-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct	10-Oct	11-Oct	12-Oct	13-Oct	14-Oct	15-Oct	16-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct	19-Oct
<i>Holothuria mexicana</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber							12:00–6:00 PM							
<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm							12:00–7:00 PM							
<i>Diadema antillarum</i>	Long-Spined Sea Urchin							12:00–9:00 PM							
<i>Neofibularia nolitangere</i>	Touch-Me-Not Sponge				2:00–7:00 PM										
<i>Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunicia</i>	Sea Rods						starting at 7:00 PM								
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>	Black Sea Rod						7:00–11:00 PM								
Ophiuroidea	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star						7:30–11:00 PM								
<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> spp.	Sea Plume						8:00–11:00 PM								
<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm						9:00–11:30 PM								

Abbreviations & Colors

NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon
MBS: Minutes Before Sunset
MAS: Minutes After Sunset
Palest Green: Spawning may be possible but data are sparse: Please help by diving on these dates
Light Green: Spawning is possible: Spawning has been observed on these dates
Medium Blue: Spawning is likely: Spawning is often observed on these dates
Darker Blue: Spawning is very likely: Spawning is reliably observed on these dates
<i>Times are show using a 12h clock (AM/PM)</i>



Tips for Success

- Spawning is never guaranteed in a changing climate: When in doubt, dive!
- Our predictions don't include buffers; be sure to enter the water well before the predicted spawning time
- Dive at sites with high coral cover
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize time
- Use a moderately bright dive light
- Scan the water for clouds of spawn:
 - Spawn from most brain, star, elkhorn, and staghorn corals looks like snow, confetti, or polka dots
 - Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals (and male great star corals) looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand
 - Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!)
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times, visit www.timeanddate.com

More Info & Ways to Help

- **Bonus features and PDF download:** Download this PDF, get notified when future calendars are released, and help us measure our reach: Please take our quick survey at www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2025.
- **New Coral Breeding Reference Sheets:** This new community resource for coral propagation, led by Val Chamberland, is now available to download here: <https://www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting>.
- **Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is now collecting and distributing regional spawning data. Therefore, if you monitor spawning, please record as many of the following details as possible: Date, location, site name (or lat/long), depth, species, setting time (if seen), spawning start and stop times, area monitored in m2, # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all very welcome! Send reports to carmabilog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@secore.org, or kristen@marhaverlab.com. You can also post your observations at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch>.
- **Huge thanks** to everyone who has shared observations over the past 30+ years. Last year was tough but we are optimistic for 2025. The Curacao team wishes everyone a safe and productive spawning season!
- **Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007–2025."