



Photo Julie Morgan

Greenpeace -Bonaire Climate Justice case heard

Did you visit the Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior III last week, September 27 – October 1? It was fun to go aboard the most famous ship in the Greenpeace fleet, but why was it here?

This was the second Greenpeace ship to visit Bonaire in the last few years and the reason is climate change, more specifically climate change justice for Bonaire. The 61m schooner sailed for seven weeks from New Zealand to Bonaire to bring awareness of the court case October 7-8 in the Netherlands demanding climate justice from the Dutch government for Bonaire.

The Rainbow Warrior came not solely for the public to visit this magnificent ship, but hopefully infuse support for climate justice and the eight plaintiffs speaking at the court case in the Netherlands. The plaintiffs, six of whom are from Bonaire are Angelo Vrolijk, Daniela Simal, Danique Martis, Helen Angela, Jackie Bernabela, Judmar Emerenciana, Kjellid Kroon and Onnie Emerenciana.

On Oct 7 and 8, these individuals will speak before the court with two demands:

CO2 reduction and that the Dutch government take responsibility based on law of what they have to do. And on adaptation – what the government can do to protect Bonaire against climate change.

Greenpeace Climate Justice press officer Laura Polderman said, “The main thing we know about climate change is we need to do everything in our power to stop the burning of fossil fuels and protect the island and the world. A start is to reduce emissions... and isolate the houses by switching from gas to solar or turbine.”

The goal worldwide is to keep global warming below 1.5° and a known solution is to reduce fuel emissions by cutting the use of fos-

sil fuels and replacing them with renewable energy.

The inhabitants of Bonaire and Greenpeace are demanding the Dutch government make its fair contribution to achieving these goals.

On Sept 1, 2019 the Dutch Climate Act was put into action for long term climate policy for emission reduction, 55% reduction of green house gas and climate neutrality by 2050. The outgoing Dutch cabinet is currently not

complying but instead protecting major polluters by providing fossil fuel subsidies.

The climate crisis is already affecting life on Bonaire with the risk of sea level rise, extreme weather and dying coral reefs due to high water temperatures and disease fueled by run-off.

Bonaire plaintiff Onnie Emerenciana said, “As a farmer on Bonaire, I see and feel the effects of the climate crisis every day. We can no longer harvest what we used to, and the extreme heat forces us indoors. Climate change is not a distant threat to us. It is here... Our identity is intertwined with nature: the coral that protects our coast, the fish that feed our families, the trees that hold our soil, the wind that cools us. But that home – our nature – is being taken away from us bit by bit. We demand action to protect our home before it is too late.”

Marking the beginning of the Climate Justice campaign in April 2023, the Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise’ made a visit to Bonaire. Local artist Judmar Emerenciana “Marz” painted a mural depicting a Bonaire underwater. This year he and Ghislaine Monte painted



Flying between the masts of the Rainbow Warrior Photo Julie Morgan

OLB fails Piskabon, Curaçao gets the benefit

The annual conference of the Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) was scheduled to take place on Bonaire in 2026. However the organizer, Piskabon, was unable to arrange the required government support by the July, 2025 deadline. So the event was left in limbo. On Piskabon's initiative, The Federashon Kooperativanan Uni di Produkshon and Fundashon Ekonomia Sosial Korsou appealed to the government of Curaçao. The government there promptly agreed to sponsor the event. Therefore next year 200 to 300 visitors will attend the GCFI conference on Curaçao instead of Bonaire.

The chairman of Piskabon, Ernest de Lanoy, said statistics show that such events yield 100 percent return on investment. The people attending the conference will spend a week on Curaçao, renting hotel rooms, renting cars, buying meals. They will also return to their own countries and promote Curaçao.

De Lanoy Piskabon made an initial presentation to then-deputy Anjelica Cicilia and some members of the island council. They were asked to send all the information and wait for a response. The response never came.

Recently de Lanoy said his group wanted to tell the three deputies more about the size of the conference and its potential benefits for Bonaire.

Piskabon intends to talk to TCB, STINAPA, Sea Turtle Conservation, and DCNA to assure Bonaire is well promoted at the 2026 conference. *DMR*



Chairman of Piskabon, Ernest de Lanoy

Parliament passes meaningless landfill motions

With an election imminent, last week some parties in the House of Representatives chose to pass political posture motions regarding Bonaire's landfill. One vote demanded the landfill be closed "as soon as possible." Presumably "as soon as possible" means as soon as the island has identified an alternative site and prepared it to receive and process waste. Otherwise the Selibon drivers won't know where to go when their trucks fill up.

In another motion, according to a source, Parliament demanded "an independent external investigation into the origins of the waste crisis surrounding the Bonaire landfill. The investigation will also focus on the actions of the island government and the ministries involved." The vote even tasked the investigation with determining "why successive executive councils and ministries failed for years to adequately respond to a 2016

report on the significant health risks for residents living near the landfill at Lagun."

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Eddie van Marum considers the motions premature. He suggests no action be taking before October 11. That is when the Executive Council must submit its plan for the Landfill to Kingdom Representative Helmond. October 11 is also the due date for the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate's report regarding whether on-site progress is being made in reducing the risks to public health and the environment.

National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen recently strongly criticized the landfill situation in detail. There is no longer any doubt that the health hazard has to be eliminated, and as soon as possible. *DMR*

Surprise tax changes announced, arguing begins

The Ministry of Finance has announced that "certain tax changes" will take effect a year early. They were scheduled for January 1, 2027, but they are included in new legislation that makes them effective as of January 1, 2026. The announced changes in the legislation are, the ministry says, routine and were mentioned to Bonaire's Central Dialogue (CD) months ago. The CD, on the other hand, says the changes are a surprise and some changes relate to issues that need to be agreed upon jointly during upcoming discussions regarding the new Fiscal Omnibus Act 2027.

The Ministry says the changes regard purchasing power legislation and therefore can be passed routinely in response to changes in economic data. The Ministry also says the changes reduce people's taxes a year earlier than scheduled, an obvious benefit to everyone.

The CD welcomes the immediate tax reduction. It has suspicions, however. It wonders why the new legislation includes an unnegotiated tax rate increase on the eve of the general revision of tax policy. It also has two major concerns that it wants addressed in any tax changes. It says the proposed increase in property taxes paid by hotels is onerous and unjustified. In addition, while the CD agrees with the statutory minimum wage legislation, it feels that businesses should get some shorter term tax relief that would cushion the immediate effects.

The Executive Council too objected to the Ministry's surprise announcement. The Ministry replied that the Executive Council is a member of the Central Dialogue. Therefore it too should have been aware the changes were being considered. *DMR*

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Nos ta biba di naturalesa – We're part of nature

On Bonaire, nature is not just scenery. It is life itself. Coral reefs feed our families and welcome visitors from around the world. Mangroves guard our coasts. Dry forests hold the land in place. Every flamingo, every fish, every cactus tells the story of who we are.

Yet this lifeline is under pressure. Erosion clouds the waters reefs need to survive. Plastic drifts where fish should swim. Free-roaming goats strip the hillsides bare. And climate change makes the pressure heavier—hotter seas, stronger storms, a rising ocean.

Still, there is hope. What we protect today will be here tomorrow. That is why *Nos ta biba di naturalesa* is more than a phrase. It is a movement. A reminder that we are part of nature, not apart from it. Our future depends on how we care for the land, the sea, and each other.

Every resident, every visitor, every child growing up on Bonaire has a role to play. Some dive, some farm, some fish, some simply walk the beach. Each act of care, big or small, makes the island stronger for the changes ahead.

And when we look around—with



open eyes—we see why it matters. The reef glowing beneath the waves. A flamingo lifting into the sky. The wind moving through cactus hills. Each moment of wonder reminds us: we are part of nature, and nature is part of us.

Join the journey:

facebook.com/NTBDN

youtube.com/@NaturalesaBonaire

FOR SALE Kaya Peridoto 24 Spacious Villa with Amazing Views



- Location: Santa Barbara
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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

From Sept. 20 to Oct 1. Two people were arrested for theft. A man, 70 was arrested for a theft at a business on Kaya Korona. A search of his residence found items relevant to the investigation. A woman, 26, was arrested for stealing a wallet and its contents from a supermarket on Kaya Industria.

An electric bicycle and a Kymco scooter, license plate MF-1754 were stolen. Both were parked locked in their owner's yards.

A phone was stolen from a car parked in the lot of a restaurant on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot.

A burglary was reported at an after-school program on Kaminda Nieuw Amsterdam. A Samsung Galaxy mobile phone was taken from the office.

Two dive sites and a beach were targeted. At the Sweet Dreams dive site the rear window of a rented pickup was smashed and iPhones, a dive flashlight and a wallet were stolen. At Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) a handbag and its contents were taken from the beach while the owner was swimming. While the owner was diving at a site off E.E.G. Boulevard, his vehicle was searched and cash from a wallet and diving gear stolen.

Once again a theft from a rental car was reported at Altamira Unjo in Rincon. While the occupants were taking photos, two bags left in the vehicle were searched and watches, cash and cards were stolen.

A fat bike was found hidden in the bushes on Kaya General C.M. Piar. Police suspected that the bike was stolen and confiscated it.

Arrests

Oct. 3. At approximately 6 a.m. the Special Assignments Group (GBO) searched a residence on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. During the search, a man, 33, was arrested for making threats. Items relevant to the investigation were seized.

Sept. 29. At approximately 11:20 a.m. the Special Assignments Group (GBO) arrested a man, 22, for violating the BES Firearms Act. The arrest was part of the investigation into the shooting that took place during the night of Sunday, June 8. A search was conducted at a residence on Kaya Herman J. Pop in the Playa Pabou neighborhood. Items relevant to the investigation were seized.

Sept. 28. Around 5 p.m. the central emergency dispatch center received a report that a car had hit a person on Kaya Zircón in Republiek. Upon arrival of the ambulance, CPR was immediately initiated, after which the victim was rushed to the hospital. At the scene, police arrested the driver, a man, 65, for (attempted) manslaughter, aggravated assault, and assault with a weapon. The vehicle was impounded. In the evening of that same day, police received a report that the victim, a 43-year-old woman with the initials M.T.A.L.Q., born on September 16, 1982, in Peru, had died.

Sept. 21. Around 10 a.m. a woman, 19, was arrested on Plantage Aruba for violating the BES Opium Act. The suspect allegedly attempted to smuggle narcotics and a telephone SIM card into the Caribbean Netherlands Judicial Institution (JICN). The suspected narcotics and the SIM card were confiscated.

Sept. 20. A theft was reported at Altamira Unjo in Rincon. Upon arrival of a patrol, they saw a suspicious vehicle. The driver ignored a police stop sign and drove off. After a short chase, the car stopped on Boulevard Miguel A. Pourier. During the stop, the officers detected a strong odor of suspected narcotics. A search of the vehicle revealed suspected narcotics, ammunition, and a firearm. Around 11:26 a.m. the two occupants, a man, 21, and a man, 19, were arrested for violating the Opium Act BES and Firearms Act BES. Police seized the vehicle and several relevant items for further investigation. A search of the suspects' residence found nothing relevant.

Increased surveillance in Kaya Grandi

During the last two weekends in September, police have continued to increase surveillance in Kaya Grandi and the surrounding area, aimed at combating nuisance caused by motorcycles and e-bikes.

During Sept 26 to 29, several drivers were warned for violations, such as driving with defective lights, missing front license plates, transporting children without child seats, and driving without a seat belt or valid license. Young people were interviewed about their behavior with e-bikes, specifically driving without lights and performing stunts on the road and between cars.

One driver ignored a stop sign and nearly struck a police officer. He then fled at high speed so that an oncoming driver had to swerve to avoid a collision. The driver, a man, 20, was arrested for disobeying a stop sign and attempted aggravated assault. He failed to identify himself, so was also arrested for violating the BES Identification Act. His car was impounded. Another driver was stopped after recklessly drifting his vehicle. The driver apologized when sternly reprimanded.

The weekend of Sept 19 to 21 police in Kaya Grandi issued 12 fines: for riding without a helmet; riding in a prohibited direction; riding without insurance or a license; for not using a turn signal; for failing to comply with a stop sign; and obstructive driving.

A motorcycle was confiscated after the driver failed to stop for police and committed several violations, including not having insurance and a valid driver's license.

On Friday evening, a 24-year-old man was also arrested on Kaya Grandi for failing to comply with a police order, resisting arrest, insulting an officer on duty, and making threats. The suspect had been confronted earlier about his dangerous driving. Despite this, he continued doing "wheelies," then drove away at high speed. Shortly thereafter, he returned on foot and when stopped again, was aggressive and began insulting and threatening an officer. When he violently resisted arrest, the officers were forced to use physical techniques, batons, and pepper spray to subdue him. During the arrest, the suspect bit a police officer, who required medical treatment at the hospital.

Traffic accidents / DUIs

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

From Sept. 23 to Oct. 1. Three cars and scooters collided with each other; another collision involved a car and a dirt bike; one scooter rear-ended another scooter; and on the road to Rincon, a motorcyclist collided with a donkey.

An ATV driven by a minor crashed into a wall on Kaya Utrecht. The minor driver was taken to the hospital in a private car, and the minor's parent was severely cautioned for allowing a child to drive on a public road.

In the last two weeks, four drivers were found to be driving under the influence of alcohol. One driver had collided with another vehicle, and one had crashed into the fence of a house. One driver did not have a driver's license. Two drivers were banned from driving for 3 and 4 hours, respectively.

Traffic controls and speed checks

Oct. 2. In the evening 16 vehicles were checked on Kaya Korona and two fines were issued: exceeding the speed limit within a built-up area, and driving without a valid driver's license.

Sept. 26. On Boulevard Miguel A. Pourier in Rincon several vehicles were inspected, and three tickets were issued: driving without valid insurance, driving without a valid driver's license, and not wearing a seat belt.

Sept. 22 - 23, A speed check was held on E.E.G. Boulevard where the speed limit is 40 km/h. Four tickets were issued for speeds between 70 and 84 km/h. Two drivers received warnings for driving between 60 and 65 km/h.

The fine for the aforementioned violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.

Public order

Sept. 28 to 30. During the weekend police received several reports of fights at various locations: at a bar on Kaya Bonaire, at a restaurant on Kaya Nikiboko Noord where bloodstains were found on the road; and in the downtown area.

Sept. 25. Police announced that 47-year-old American cruise ship tourist, Jessica Collins, was found alive and well. Ms. Collins was detained by the Immigration Control department for verification due to her undocumented stay on Bonaire.

Fire

Sept. 29. Around 2 a.m. a truck used as a mobile wind-surfing school was reported on fire at Sorobon Beach. The cabin was fully engulfed in flames, cause unknown.

Sept. 28. Around 4:10 p.m. a fire and explosions were reported in a building on Kaya Mariana, cause unknown. A person asleep inside the house was awakened by firemen and escorted outside. He did not require medical attention because the part of the house he was sleeping in was not on fire.

Sept. 23. Around 7:50 p.m. a large trash fire in the area of Seru Angola was reported in the grounds of a knoek (a local shop). The fire department decided to allow the fire to burn out in a controlled manner. The police informed local residents of the situation.

OLB Launches Awareness Campaign for Dog Welfare



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BO RESPONSABILIDAT.

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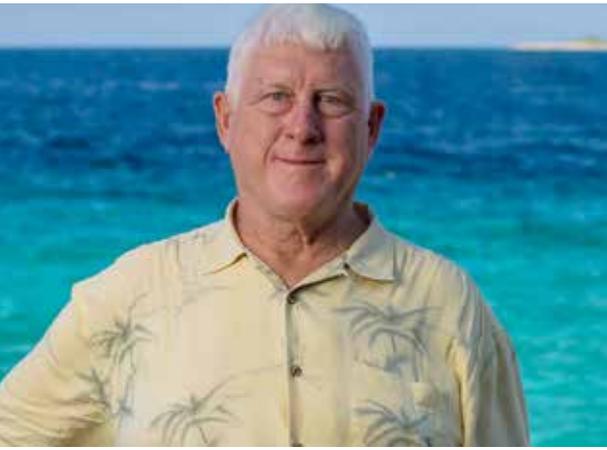
Owner Responsibility

Dog owners are reminded that they are always responsible for their dog's behavior. Any damage or nuisance caused by a dog is the owner's responsibility. To prevent accidents and problems, the OLB advises:

- Keep dogs safe on your property and ensure gates are properly closed, even if you are only leaving for a short time.
- Do not allow dogs to run loose in the street.
- Is your dog on a leash in the garden? Make sure it's long enough for your dog to move freely.
- Always provide your dog with enough water, food, and shade.
- Provide daily exercise: make time to walk your dog and always keep it on a leash during walks.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,
Can I make payment arrangements with the tax office to pay my property taxes?

Thanks, John

Hi John,

Yes, the tax office is willing to arrange a flexible payment plan if you prefer to pay your taxes on a monthly or quarterly basis.

You can contact the tax office to set up a payment plan that fits your needs by sending an email to Invondering@belastingdienst-cn.nl

Please note that the payment plan can be set up for a maximum of 12 months.

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

TCB announces photo contest winners

Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) Capture Bonaire Photo Contest 2025 has come to a close, and after 350 submissions, the winners have been chosen. This year's contest showcased the creativity of talented participants, all of whom captured the unique essence and beauty of Bonaire, both above and below the water.

The winning photographs, along with a selection of other outstanding entries, will be featured in TCB's marketing activities throughout the year.

The top three winners are:

- 1st Place: Marcel van der Hulst. Prize: Five-night stay for two at Divi Flamingo Beach Resort
- 2nd Place: Thomas Galica. Prize: Dinner for two with a bottle of wine at Seaside Krioyo Fusion
- 3rd Place: Rhodan Mulder. Prize: Bonaire Landsailing Adventures for two

TCB press release



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month worldwide. At Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland, we also take this time to reflect on the impact that breast cancer has on our community. Our thoughts are with everyone who is currently fighting, has overcome, or has lost someone to this disease.

Initiatives Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, various activities are being organized.

Friday, October 17

As a sign of support and awareness, on Friday, October 17th, we will wear something pink: the color of the fight against breast cancer. Will you join us?

Wednesday, October 22

In collaboration with Fundashon Mariadal, we are organizing a special walk-in day for women between the ages of 50 and 75 on Wednesday, October 22nd. Between 8 a.m. and 12 noon women are welcome to come without an appointment for a mammogram (X-ray of the breasts).

Friday, October 31

We conclude the month with an enjoyable and educational evening on Friday, October 31st, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. During this event, we will provide information about breast cancer screening in an informal setting. The evening is combined with the popular game 'Bon Ku Ne'. Fun and awareness go hand in hand!



Questions or registration

You can register for the event on Friday, October 31st. The location and details of the event are shared with you after registration. Registration is open until Sunday, October 26th, by telephone (+599) 715 9200, via

WhatsApp (+599) 781 0476, or by sending an email to screeningCN@rivm.nl.

For more information about our population screening programs, visit our website: www.screening-cn.com.

Bevolkingsonderzoek CN press release

Cleanup of building permit backlog underway

The Spatial Planning and Development Directorate has begun actively processing building permit applications that have been pending for a long time. The Spatial Planning and Development Department and its team are ready to assist applicants and process their requests.

In April an organization of thirteen construction companies, road builders, developers and suppliers objected to the slow issuance of permits by the local government. In July Spatial Planning and Development Directorate acknowledged that approximately 160 unprocessed building permit applications had accumulated. The backlog dated back to 2018.

Applicants who have been waiting may receive a letter explaining the next steps in processing their application. If the letter asks them to provide missing documents they should respond within the specified time frame. Otherwise their application may be rejected. *DMR*

HRH Princess Beatrix to visit Bonaire and Sint Eustatius



HRH Princess Beatrix

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) is honored to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix on her upcoming visit to Bonaire and Sint Eustatius in November.

Throughout the visit, Princess Beatrix will learn more about local conservation and restoration initiatives. DCNA is pleased that this special occasion provides an opportunity to highlight the important work of STI-NAPA Bonaire and STENAPA St. Eustatius, who play a leading role in protecting and restoring the islands' natural environments."

The visit also comes at a time when DCNA and its partners have launched the Conservation and Restoration of Key Habitats Program. This multi-year initiative focuses on the protection and restoration of five critical ecosystems across all six Dutch Caribbean islands: coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, tropical dry forests, and tropical wet forests. By highlighting these projects during the Princess's visit, DCNA and its partners hope to inspire continued support for conservation and restoration efforts across the Dutch Caribbean.

DCNA press release

Photo credit Jacco Backx and Tom Brokke.

Cabinet wants to require ten years for Dutch citizenship

The Dutch cabinet on Friday, September 26 approved a measure to extend the minimum period of legal residence to obtain Dutch citizenship from five to 10 years. Anyone who wants to apply for naturalized Dutch citizenship would have to have lived legally and continuously in the Netherlands for at least a decade and additionally be able to demonstrate that they are "fully integrated" to be eligible.

The draft legislation will have to be opened to public consultation to allow organizations and individuals to express their opinion. Afterwards the Council of States would have to approve it, then it would be debated in parliament. The current government will be long gone before all of that transpires. *DMR (IamExpat Media)*

BSNs coming to BES

All residents of the European Netherlands have a citizen service number (BSN) that gives them access to government digital services. Fifteen years after 10-10-10, people living in the Dutch municipalities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba are going to get theirs. They can start picking up their BSNs at the Civil Affairs Department beginning November 11. *DMR*

Second Chamber Election Wednesday, October 29

The Second Chamber Election will take place on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. Residents of the Caribbean Netherlands who are 18 years or older and have Dutch nationality are eligible to vote. By voting, they can determine who will represent them in the Second Chamber.

The Second Chamber (Tweede Kamer) controls the government and makes new legislation, which is also of significance to the residents of the Caribbean Netherlands. This concerns subjects such as healthcare, security, and social affairs.



Will you be exercising your right to vote on October 29? Every vote counts!

For more information about the election and voting, please visit

<https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/secondchamberelection>

Van Marum explains the role of the Representative



Eddie van Marum
State Secretary for Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations



Jan Helmond
Acting Kingdom Representative

The island council often sees the role of the Representative on Bonaire as interference from The Hague, while many residents believe the Representative represents their interests directly.

In an interview with *Bonaire.nu*, State Secretary Eddie van Marum explained the Representative is a bridge between island and the government. The Representative communicates the interests of The Hague to the island, and the concerns and needs of residents of the island to The Hague. He said the Netherlands has a tradition of each level of governance supporting a lower level when needed. Van Marum emphasized that the function of State Secretary will not disappear. *DMR (First reported by Bonaire.nu)*

Bonaire grows, Statia and Saba shrink

According to Statistics Netherlands (CBS), the economy of Bonaire grew by 6.3 percent in 2023. That growth was mainly driven by the construction, energy and accommodation and food services sectors.

In the meantime, the economy of St Eustatius contracted by 0.5 percent. The economy of Saba contracted by 1.6 percent, mainly because of shrinkage in public administration, education, and health care.

DMR (CBS)

a large banner with the colors of the Bonaire flag, symbols of the island and a fist signifying the fight for justice and strength.

A plaintiff in the court case, Judmar said, "I look forward to standing in court opposite a government that has looked the other way for years. It is too hot to walk or cycle outside. And when it rains, it rains so hard that everything is flooded and the roads are impassable. I am concerned that rising sea levels will cause coral to disappear, with major consequences for the island's prosperity...We have a right to a future – just like everyone else. With this lawsuit, we are saying: enough is enough – we demand protection."

The original Rainbow Warrior was involved in campaigns against whaling, seal hunting and was bombed in a campaign against nuclear testing. The new ship engages in scientific research with universities, investigates illegal fishing, deep water surveys with an ROV, shark documentation, fossil fuel extraction, marine ecosystems, cetacean monitoring and human abuse on ships.

The ship is equipped with three sails, desalination, recycling system, sewage treatment and environmental fuel treatment. It has two engines, one fuel and one electric and only motors when necessary.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

The courtcase was available to stream on October 7-8 at: <https://streams.nfgd.nl/bodemzaak-greenpeace-cs-tegen-de-staat>

For more information about the case and Greenpeace, contact Laura Polderman laura.polderman@greenpeace.org

At Lac Bay

This week, the Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) is conducting important field research in Lac Bay. On October 6, 7, 9 and 10, researchers are collecting data on the sea turtles searching for food in the bay.

For this study, a 200-meter-long net is laid out, marked with yellow, orange and white buoys. Up to eleven volunteers and staff members swim between the buoys to catch, mark and then release the turtles. A boat remains nearby for safety during the process.

Visitors to Lac Bay and windsurfing enthusiasts are kindly requested to keep their distance from the net and the STCB boat, and to be alert to snorkelers in the water.

For emergencies with sea turtles, residents and visitors can contact the STCB hotline at +599 780 0433. For other questions, the organization can be reached via

cepa@bonaireturtles.org

Four Dive Sites

Due to Regatta festivities and activities, the following dive sites will be closed from October 7th at 6 am until October 12th at 11a.m.

- Jerry's Reef
- Just A Nice Dive
- Something Special
- Monte's Divi

This temporary closure is necessary to ensure everyone's safety and to avoid any disturbances during the activities.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We wish you all a good time during the Regatta Week!

STINAPA Communications Team

Environmental expo held for businesses

On April 1, 2024 the BES Establishments and Activities Decree came into effect, enacted to protect the three islands most precious assets – nature and the environment. On September 30 at Jong Bonaire the Public Entity Bonaire held an environmental expo (Informatiepunt Milieu) to remind hospitality and construction businesses of the measures listed in the 2024 decree.

Speakers Wignand de Wolf, Senior Permit Officer for Environment and Nature, Bart Rutten for Sustainable Waste Management Bonaire and Leo de Jong Program Manager, IAB Implementation advised the attendees that the duty of every business should be to exercise care for the environment in their business. De Wolf advised the crowd that 10 different environmental decrees or ordinances were adopted from 1994 through 2024 regarding nature, businesses, housing, spatial planning and the environment.

Rutten said the island produces approximately 29,000 tons of waste per year. Each year the waste increases due to the population growth, visitors and more business activity. Only 3% of the waste is recycled and approximately 75% is landfilled. Some 10-20% is temporarily stored for future processing. Education, awareness and prevention is needed to eliminate the high amount of waste.

The government is creating policy, guidelines, infrastructure and facilities. Companies can start separating waste, avoid single-use plastics, encourage reuse, separate waste and actively involve their team/employees.

Hospitality Businesses

De Jong outlined the 10 most important things hospitality businesses can do to protect the environment.

1. Care for the environment through good housekeeping in your business.



2. Collect waste separately by providing separate waste bins for different types of waste.

3. Wastewater: • with fat and oil needs a grease separator or grease trap. • no cesspools. All cesspools must be replaced with a septic tank or connection to sewer by January 1, 2029.

4. Prevent noise pollution: construction companies should not work at night; restaurants/bars should provide shielding to buffer the noise in neighborhoods.

5. Prevent odor nuisance by installing air filters or a high drainpipe.

6. Cooling installation: inspect air conditioning or refrigeration units to ensure there is no leakage of coolants as they are highly toxic to the environment.

7. Fire extinguishing systems must be

clearly visible and easily accessible to everyone.

8. Gas bottles used for cooking should be secured against falling over and not placed in direct sunlight.

9. Storage of hazardous substances such as corrosive cleaning liquids or flammable substances like paint, turpentine and fuels should be stored in a designated facility and disposed of separately.

10. Single use plastics were banned on the island two years ago. It is illegal to provide plastic bags, straws, cutlery, stirrers and Styrofoam packaging – use alternative products.

Construction Businesses

De Jong pointed out construction companies should follow the same guidelines: 1,3,5,7,8, and 10 in addition to a few others.

- Make good use of raw materials such as water, energy and building materials.

- Separate waste collection and reuse building materials when possible, to reduce waste and save money to protect nature. Separate paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum and glass in separate bins.

- Asbestos is highly toxic to the environment and causes cancer. If found when working on a site, take the necessary precautions. Consult the Rijksdienst CN for more information.

- Wastewater is not the same. Some may be discharged into the sewer or septic tank, but wastewater generated during concrete pouring may be discharged onto the ground not the sewer or septic system.

- Soil groundwater protection. Storage of hazardous substances must be in a drip tray or in a designated storage facility to prevent soil contamination. Clean up hazardous liquid immediately if spilled with special absorbents. Contaminated soil must be disposed as hazardous waste to the waste collector.

- Preventing dust nuisance can be prevented by covering trucks with a tarp when transporting sand or stone that causes dust.

All national and island regulations for construction can be found on wetten.overheid.nl and <https://overheid.nl>

For more information regarding these regulations visit or contact:

<https://infomilcn.com>
informatiepuntmilieu@kvkbonaire.com

Julie Morgan

When we
care, it lasts.
When we
forget, it fades.

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Catching the fish & salting the fish

Bonaire's monthly cultural event Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei on September 27 focused on one of the oldest traditions and professions on the island – fishing. Benito Koffie took the stage with Julianka Clarendra saying he was happy to share his knowledge with everyone as it was important for the children to know our heritage. Benito has been out on the water since he was a child sailing, fishing and carrying cargo to other islands throughout the Caribbean.



Benito Koffie spoke of his days on the water

explaining that while red snapper makes a really good, salted fish, you can also use tuna, mahi or rainbow runner.

Before a large crowd at Nos Zjilea, Julius described the preparation: The fish needs to be fresh. Try to get the backbone

In the presentation on fishing Benito brought in a small handmade fishing boat like one he used to use. Benito explained that the oar of the boat should have two paddles and said that it's easier to fish in Bonaire than in Curaçao because here we use fresh bait.

"The biggest fish I ever caught was 18 kilo (39.68 lb) and it wouldn't fit into the boat, so I cut it in two and sold it for money to buy a bigger boat," said Benito.

When fishers are out on the water traveling from island to island, one thing they can easily eat is salted fish. Julius Clarendra demonstrated how to prepare the traditional dish. Julius used a tuna,

out first as that is where the most meat is. Take out bones and then cut long grooves close together. Open the grooves one by one and throw the salt in with your fingers. Make sure it goes into the deepest grooves. The more salt the better, usually about a kilo, because the salt turns to water as it is applied.

Julius said, "About 55 years ago, the fishers would go into the salina for the salt and every fisher had his own place to get the salt."

Once the salting is complete the fish is hung on a big hook outside in the sun to dry for two days but it should not be left out overnight. After the two days in the sun the fish is cooked in hot water to get rid of the salt. If it is too salty then it should be put in hot water again until it has just the right degree of salty taste.

Lucky members of the Nos Zjilea crowd were able to taste the salted fish served with polenta.

In addition to the presentations Nos Zjilea featured the popular local band Tutti Fruti. And as always, the museum was open to stroll through. To satisfy your hunger and thirst, the kitchen was open with fresh local food and drinks, fresh bbq and some amazing local handmade crafts.

Nos Zjilea is held the last Saturday of every month and is the best place on Bonaire to learn about the island's culture, traditions and history.



Julius Clarendra opens tuna to groove

A different presentation is held every month. See Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire.

The next Nos Zjilea is October 25.

Story / photos Julie Morgan



Julius applies salt deep into each groove several times



Salted fish and polenta was served to everyone

Roxanne-Liana Francisca new program manager WWF-NL Caribbean



Roxanne-Liana Francisca

World Wildlife Fund – Netherlands (WWF-NL) is broadening their range throughout the Caribbean to collaborate with more countries in the region. With this expansion they have appointed Roxanne-Liana Francisca as the new program manager.

Roxanne is originally from Curaçao. *The Bonaire Reporter* has watched her grow in her role in nature at STINAPA's Bonaire Marine Park since 2018. First she served as an assistant to Caren Eckrich, STINAPA's biologist, then as a biologist. Later she was appointed Senior

Conservation Manager and finally manager of Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP). Reporter readers will remember her contributions to the marine park's *Did You Know* column on nature and marine life on Bonaire.

Roxanne took the initiative with the sponge tying project at the Salt Pier. Later she was the go-to person for information when SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease) attacked our coral reefs in 2022 and she has since conducted other large-scale projects at WSNP. Through the years she has become an established face and voice for STINAPA that the public could relate to.

Roxanne's formal statement on her new position read, "I am incredibly excited to join the WWF-NL team and look

forward to contributing to meaningful conservation work across the Dutch Caribbean. In addition, I will help deliver tangible and lasting results that benefit not only the islands but also the wider region."

The Bonaire Reporter wishes Roxanne success with WWF-NL.

Since 1960 WWF-NL has been engaged in nature conservation. Roxanne officially left STINAPA in mid-September and begins her new role as WWF-NL program manager in early October.

*Julie Morgan
Photo: WWF-NL*

Frank Böhm - Bonaire's bicycle guy

For the last 26 years Frank Bohm's de Freewieler has become synonymous with biking on Bonaire. If you need a bike, tires, helmet, repairs, have questions about cycling or want to know where to ride, then you go to Frank. Not only that but as a biker himself he is pretty much solely responsible for building the Bonaire biking community.

A mechanical engineer who mainly built bridges in the Netherlands, Frank followed his wife, Wilma, a former school principal, to Bonaire after she was hired as a primary school teacher in 1995. The move to Bonaire had always been a dream for the couple so they jumped at the opportunity.

Once on Bonaire, Frank took a job in a scooter store as Bonaire didn't really need bridges built, but he wanted to do something. He saw the need for a bicycle shop on Bonaire, even though the most he rode a bike in the Netherlands was to work. After waiting a year for a permit, he opened the doors to de Freewieler, in a small building, formerly occupied by a dental office and now the home of Penny Lane.

Two and half years later he moved into his current location on Kaya Grandi.

Frank began building a biking community, and became an avid biker, riding after work and organizing a group ride on Wednesdays. The small group base was made up of Frank, Moki Arends, Robert Smaal and Domingo de Lima. They would explore the kunukus and mundi trying to make their own trails. Biking was by word of mouth and the group would grow and then go back down again.

Frank said, "A big problem was the bike tires. We



Frank Böhm.

would go for a ride, and someone would get a puncture, and we would wait for that person to change it and then ride on until someone else had a flat and we would wait again for the repair. But when tubeless tires came out, that was the beginning of the group growing and we could just ride."

As an engineer, repairing the bikes came easy as he always had a way of figuring out how things worked. Coming from a family of nine, his father always told the kids, "You have to do your own bike repairs".

"In the beginning, you just replaced the part and now it's repaired. Gears have changed from cable to Bluetooth and the materials are different. Bike frames were

steel and now aluminum or carbon. The weight has reduced from 20 kilo to 9. And the ride is much smoother", said Frank.

The core cyclists including Frank and Domingo de Lima have found old goat trails, cleared them and built some 40-50 routes over the years for mountain biking and the Fun Races organized by Frank six times a year. The trails are marked with blue stones.

Frank Böhm to page 12



Frank and Wilma.



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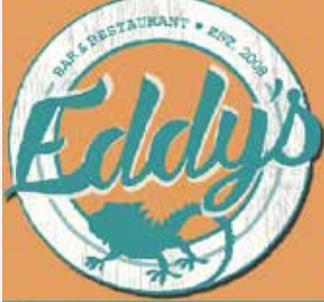
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Frank Böhm - Bonaire's bicycle guy *from page 10*



The 83k Duo Xtreme mountain bike race was expanded to Bonaire by some Curacao Duo Xtreme organizers in 2010. Frank and Moki took it over the next year. Up until three years ago he competed with Duo partner Domingo not only in Bonaire but Curacao, Aruba and St Maartin. Frank continues to be involved in the organization of the race and the next Bonaire Duo Xtreme is October 19.

The Olie Bollen race, a fun race for all bike riders of all ages and all bikes on New Year's Eve is now 10 years old. This was another inspiration by Frank.

"I wanted to do a close of year bike ride and everyone said, no one will come... but they did as everyone is just waiting around in the afternoon for the big new Years Eve party," said Frank.

Over the years Frank has been instrumental in the biking community campaigning for bike lanes on Bonaire, but the government keeps denying them despite how safe the roads would become for cyclists.

Frank said, "Even the few bike lanes that have been made can't be used because people park their cars on them. And the ones on the roundabout don't work because car drivers haven't learned how to drive with bikes."

Frank has been very active in promoting kids cycling and safety and has worked closely with Indebon in their programs in biking. He believes Indebon knows how important biking is for kids and is happy to help.

Along with Frank, Wilma has had a huge influence on the growth of cycling on the island. Every Fun Race and Duo Xtreme Wilma was there helping organize the different events, purchasing the drinks and food, manning the registration and calculating the winners. She took a step back a few years ago but she didn't stay away for long. This past year Frank too has taken a small step back from organizing the Fun Races to leave it to the new cycle clubs. Unfortunately for all cyclists, the biking community has failed to organize one race this year.

The de Freewieler is for sale, but Frank is not leaving. He rides most every day and is a diehard biker. Frank even has a new bike.

De Freewieler is located at 61 Kaya Grandi. The shop has an amazing inventory of Giant and Specialized bikes, helmets, tires, all type of bike accessories and does repairs. The store is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 12:30 / 2-5 p.m. 9a.m. – 12 p.m. Saturday +599-717 8545

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

Taste of Bonaire wraps tourism month



Residents and island guests enjoyed the flavors, music and crafts of Bonaire on World Tourism Day with TCB's (Tourism Corporations Bonaire) Taste of Bonaire on September 27.

The food and drink stands offered the unique flavors of Bonaire. Guests enjoyed the food offerings traveling from booth to booth while stopping at the various craft stands while listening to the sounds of DJ Jewels, Grupo Hashtag and Grupo Karino.

On the stage TCB wrapped up the month-long festivities of tourism month by awarding the prizes for the kids scavenger hunt. First place – Group Bokoba (banana) leader Xioella Janga; second - Group Apel (apple), leader Jolanda Craane; third - Group Druifi (grape), leader Smuid Janga and most creative Group Anasa (pineapple), leader Shakeynie Nicasta.

Three local Bonaire athletes were recognized for their wins in boxing and karate at inter-island and international

levels.

Everon Vrutaal won the title of Karate champion Ecuador open 2025; Ricardi Munoz won the title at the youth heavyweight Boxing Battle of the Islands and Dylan Sint Jago won the championship Junior Featherweight of the Golden Jab Awards in Curacao. The winners were recognized as Bonaire athletes.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan

Reef Glimpses - *CLAWS* by Dee Scarr



This snapping shrimp displays both kinds of claws as it peers out from beneath its anemone.

Photo Dee Scarr

showed their bravery, and my getting discouraged by the snap showed their effectiveness.

One summer I worked as a scuba instructor in the mid-Florida Keys, at a dive shop with an aquarium to show off some of the local marine life. One day we introduced an anemone and the coral rock it was living on. A few hours later, we all heard a CRAACK sound and came running over to rescue the aquarium residents, since the sound had to be the aquarium glass cracking.

The aquarium was fine.

We had introduced a pair of snapping shrimp with the anemone, and (as I'll bet you predicted) one of them had snapped. It took us a couple of days to stop rushing to the aquarium every time we heard a crack, though. We weren't the only ones inconvenienced by snapping shrimp sounds: snapping from large colonies of the shrimp can disturb sonar. Snapping is also one of the main sounds we hear when diving around Bonaire; have you noticed it, or tuned it out?

Snapping shrimp claws are unique in more ways than their punching ability. The larger claw is the only one ca-

Reef Glimpses - Cleaners to page 19

with water. When the shrimp snaps the claw closed, the protrusion snaps into the depression, which forces the water out at speeds that can exceed fifty miles per hour! Sure, that's only for a tiny amount of water over a very small distance, but it's still faster than many fire hoses -- and it's perfect for stunning small fish.

Snapping shrimp also use their snaps defensively, something I can attest to

personally. Of course it happened years ago, but the memory is still strong: I had thrust my hand too aggressively toward a snapping shrimp, and I felt the punch on my finger. On a scale of one to ten the pain was only about a two, but added to my astonishment when it happened, the result was that I've been careful not to experience it again. And since I'm a lot bigger than most of the threats that snapping shrimp face, my getting snapped

In the last *Reef Glimpses*, I mentioned being surprised at being cleaned by snapping shrimp, but not surprised at the caution they used before cleaning; after all, cleaning wasn't their primary job, right?

Then I began to wonder what their primary job actually was. The first thing to learn was that snapping shrimp are predators of fish. Not tiny larval fish, not sick or injured fish, obviously not huge fish, but perfectly healthy relatively small fish.

How does a shrimp who is shorter than a baby's finger manage to capture a healthy little fish? The shrimp snaps. Using a specialized claw, a snapping shrimp sort of punches whatever it's hunting. If the shrimp's aim is good, if the prey is the right size and in the right position, the prey animal is killed by the punch, and the shrimp has a meal.

The tricky part is that "sort of punches." Several years ago, when I researched how snapping shrimp snap, I found four separate answers: closing the big claw, opening the big claw, closing the small claw, and opening the small claw. Not very helpful. This time, thanks to Wikipedia, I learned the How (and why the issue was so tricky). The big side of a snapping shrimp's big claw has a protrusion, which fits into a depression in the small side of the claw. When the big claw opens, the depression fills



Mahi Mahi Tataki: 100 g (3.5 oz) Mahi Mahi fillet • Sesame seeds • Rapeseed oil

Season Mahi Mahi with salt and pepper and coat with sesame seeds. Sear until golden brown in a hot frying pan with a little rapeseed oil and let cool slightly. Cut into 5mm (3/16 inch) thin slices and arrange on a plate.

Dressing: : ½ dl (1.7 oz / 3 ½ TB) Passimuncello • ½ passion fruit • 1 TB lemon juice • ½ dl (1.7 oz / 3 ½ TB) rapeseed oil • ½ radish,

Mahi Mahi Tataki

by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

diced • Piece of celery, melon, and pineapple, each cut into small cubes • 1/3 Spanish red pepper, finely diced • Piece of red onion, chopped

Mix passion fruit pulp well with rapeseed oil, passimuncello and lemon juice. Add all other ingredients and season with pepper and Bonaire sea salt.

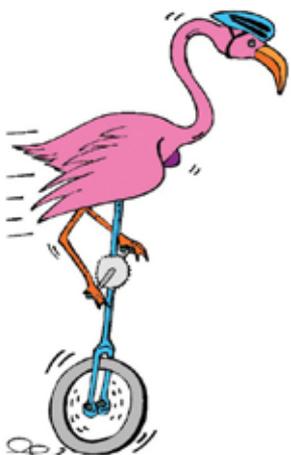
Now spread some tropical passion marinade over the Mahi Mahi tataki and garnish with a few lamb's lettuce leaves and radish slices.

Serve with crispy freshly baked bread and a refreshing glass of passimuncello.



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.

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12 steps meeting: Wednesdays at Kaya Caciqie, 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/beachtennisonaire/>

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 at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Tue & Fri 4-6 p.m. Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, Mon & Thu 4-6 p.m.** 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. 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.** 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@reefrenwalbonaire.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/>

Every week on Thursday you can watch an episode of **Waya Bo Man** on the Youtube channel of Public Body Bonaire.



Waya Bo Man Episodio 01 - Kiko ta Idioma di Seña?



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/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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)

October 7 - 11	Regatta 2025
Wed. October 8	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-17:00) • Nations Flag Parade (17:30-18:45) • Opening ceremony on main stage (19:00-20:00)
Thur. October 9	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-17:00)
Fri. October 10	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-17:00) • Regatta Happy Hour at Kas di Regatta with entertainment (14:00-19:00)
Sat. October 11	Sailing races at Kas di Regatta & SKAL (9:00-16:00) • Awards ceremony on main stage (19:00)
Wed. October 8	Regattaloop 41st Edition 2 km/5 km run. Limited to 150 runners. 5:30 p.m. start at Playa Stadium, and finish at Karel's Beach Bar. Bringing young and old together. Adults \$10. Under 15 free. Register at sports hall
Sunday, October 12	Remax Fall Kick-Off Pickleball Tournament 8 a.m. -3:30 p.m. Jorge Nicolaas Sports Hall. Singles & doubles play for competitors at all levels. \$15 includes lunch & a drink. Sign up online through: https://www.globalpickleball.network First create a Global Pickleball Network (GPN) account, then join the Pickleball Association Bonaire network to register. Registration ended Oct. 5.
	October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month (see also page 16)
Fri. October 17	Wear something pink: the color of the fight against breast cancer.
Wed. October 22	Walk-in day for a mammogram (X-ray of the breasts). For women between the ages of 50 and 75. At Fundashon Mariadal 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Women are welcome without an appointment.
Fri. October 31	An evening event. Information about breast cancer screening combined with the popular game 'Bon Ku Ne.' You can register for this event until Sunday, October 26th. The location and further details of the event are shared with you after registration.
Sun. October 19	Duo Xtreme, 15th edition annual mountain bike race. 55-km Fun Race and 75-km Elite Race. Cyclists ride in pairs: starting and finishing together. 6:30 a.m. Start & finish Eden Beach. Register https://timing.events/Event/Register?id=108
Sat. October 25	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. https://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei/
Wed. October 29	Second Chamber Election. CN residents 18 years or older who have Dutch nationality can vote. For information about the election and voting, please visit https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/secondchamberelection

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, Oct. 12	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Saturday, Oct. 25	4th Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. 9:30 a.m. Town pier. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.facebook.com/DiveFriendsBonaire/

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Thurs. October 9	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	South
Wed. October 15	0700-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 16	0800-2200	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Thurs. October 23	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Tues. October 28	0630-1900	DISNEY MAGIC 2834 guests	South

The Bonaire Reporter Oct. 8 - Oct. 22, 2025

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

'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 Tuesday 21, Thursday 23 & Saturday 25, October 2025 at the new library, located at the District Shopping Mall in Hato. Session 1 & 2 are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and session 3 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!

Are you an artist?

Once again Sobremesa is organizing the popular moveable art event where the public sees the artists in their working environments. Many studios and galleries will open their doors to showcase various artist at work.

This year's event is scheduled for the weekend of November 29 and 30. If you are an artist (amateur or professional) you are welcome to join. Just send an email to sobremesabonaire@gmail.com and include:

- Name and phone number (whatsapp)
- Short description of what you create
- two or three photos of your work
- The exact address of your studio
- If you would like to join join one or two days between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you don't have an art studio at home, let us know as some artists may share their studio. Or many of the galleries like Sobremesa will offer space to create a pop-up art studio for you. Karine de Wit, Sobremesa BV

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

Digital outreach specialist wanted. Full-time role supporting global wildlife conservation. Must have proven fundraising, digital marketing, donor engagement, and content creation experience. 5+ years experience required. Send CV, cover letter, and examples of work (including evidence of fundraising) to jackrhaines@gmail.com. Rolling applications until filled.

Regatta 2025

"By Day We Sail - By Night We Celebrate"

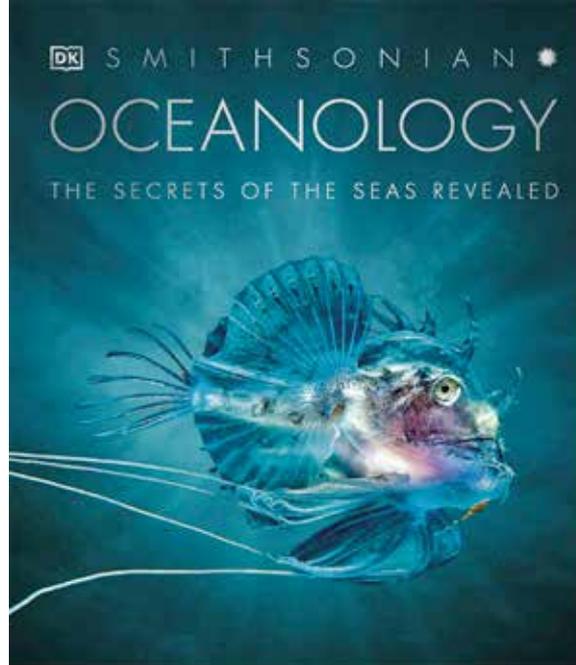
WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER	THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER	FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER	SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER
MAIN STAGE BC PARKING STARTS 18:00 ENDS 01:30	MAIN STAGE BC PARKING STARTS 18:00 ENDS 01:30	MAIN STAGE BC PARKING STARTS 18:00 ENDS 01:30	PLAZA MACHI MIMI STARTS 10:00 ENDS 18:00
17:45-18:45 FLAG PARADE & BRASS BAND	18:00-18:30 MC AIMED	18:00-18:30 MC AIMED	10:00-17:00 MC JO CAFÉ
18:00-18:30 MC AYMED	18:00-18:30 DJ SICARIO	18:00-18:30 DJ VELOZ	10:00-11:30 DJ TOAD
18:00-19:00 DJ JEWELS	19:00-20:00 ESO	18:30-19:15 ROOTS VIBRATIONS	11:30-13:00 DJ MARV
19:00-20:00 COCONOTES	20:00-20:15 DJ SICARIO	19:15-19:30 DJ VELOZ	13:00-15:00 DJ JEWEL
20:00-20:15 DJ JEWELS	20:15-21:15 FMK	19:30-20:15 KOMPA	BOAT PARTY
20:15-21:15 TUTI FRUTI	21:15-21:30 DJ SICARIO & MC ORI	20:15-20:30 DJ VELOZ	
21:15-21:30 DJ JEWELS & MC ORI	21:30-22:30 BATANGA	20:30-21:30 BONAIRE URBAN	15:00-16:15 DJ VELOZ
21:30-22:30 FOYAN BOYS	22:30-22:45 DJ SICARIO & MC ORI	TALENTS BY JO CAFÉ	16:15-17:00 DJ KING BEMBE
22:30-22:45 SCHOOL OF PERF ARTIST	22:45-24:00 DJ PATIO	21:30-21:45 DJ VELOZ	16:15-17:00 MC CHRIS STRICK
22:45-23:30 SEMII MARTEN	00:00-01:30 SALSA CUBANO	21:45-22:45 LUIS MOKA PALU GRANDI	17:00-18:00 DJ KROKZZ
23:30-23:45 DJ JEWELS & MC ORI	01:30-01:45 DJ SICARIO & MC ORI	22:45-23:00 DJ VELOZ & MC JO CAFÉ	SWITCH TO MAIN STAGE BC PARKING STARTS 18:00 ENDS 02:30
23:45-00:30 JONNA FRASER		23:00-24:00 BULERIA	
00:30-01:00 DJ JEWELS		00:00-00:15 DJ VELOZ & MC JO CAFÉ	18:00-18:30 MC AIMED
		00:15-01:45 DJ KING BEMBE FT KING JAMES	18:00-19:00 DJ MARV
		01:45-02:00 DJ VELOZ & MC JO CAFÉ	19:00-20:00 HASHTAG
		02:00-03:00 JEON	20:30-20:45 DJ MARV
			20:45-21:45 OCEAN
			21:45-22:00 DJ MARV
			22:00-22:30 SURPRISE
			GUEST
			22:30-23:15 JC & FRIENDS
			23:15-23:30 DJ MARV
			23:30-24:00 KEVV
			00:00-01:00 CHRIS STRICK & DJ KROKZZ
			01:00-02:30 ICONS
			02:25-02:35 FIRE WORK SHOW
			02:30-03:00 DJ MARV

Buckley's Books

by George Buckley

Oceanology: The Secrets of the Seas Revealed is a Smithsonian Institution/ DK Publishing book. It is a large format book with over 400 pages of revelations about the world's oceans. It is far more than just a beautiful "coffee table" book, with its hundreds of spectacular and awe inspiring photographs of sea life. The photos are accompanied by detailed descriptions of each, with detailed diagrams and a well written narrative on each topic. From plant life to arthropods, fish and mollusks, to name but a few of the subjects covered, *Oceanology* depicts a wide ranging overview of the world's oceans.

Beginning with an introduction into ocean formation and climate, *Oceanology* provides a section by section exploration of the oceans' habitats and their sea life. Topics covered include: Rocky Coasts, Sandy Beaches, Estuaries and Mudflats, Salt Marshes and Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Coastal Seas, the Open Ocean and Polar Seas. Each section has comprehensive coverage of that oceanic habitat with a detailed descriptive and photographic investigation of its physical aspects as well as



representative sea life from micro to macro in size.

The editors have included a detailed Index, an expansive glossary and a very extensive classification guide to the

taxonomy of sea life, making for a usable and valuable guide to the oceans.

First published in 2020, *Oceanology* is available in book stores and online, often at discount. It is a must-have book for ocean enthusiasts of all ages, despite claiming to have a younger target audience. It will expand your knowledge about the world's oceans, their major habitats and their myriad forms of sea life. It takes you on an inspirational visual journey while revealing plentiful and amazing secrets of the seas.



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 - Making the world a bigger place..... - by Ria Dokter

The world of the elderly decreases every year, and it is getting smaller by the minute.

More and more the elderly stay at home within the walls of their house. They hardly get out anymore and their friends and family members pass away. For many years they stopped working for a living and they have nobody left to care for anymore.

They seem to get out only when having doctor's appointments or to see a physiotherapist. Some of them attend gatherings for the elderly, but that is not for everybody as they often feel too many people around can be frightening.

The need to be amongst other people stays though and it is very important, because people need people. They used to go shopping and meet people there. Or they would go for a drive and see people, talk to them, visit family members and go to church. One cannot point out this enough: people need people. They need to stay connected to the community because when you are not seen, you are very likely to be forgotten.

Nowadays there are more projects being offered for the elderly to participate in. There are some 60+ pro-

grams in almost every barrio. MiVaBo organizes the Sorobon Swimmers once a month where volunteers pick up one or more elderly and take them to Sorobon for a lovely morning of swimming and social action.

The M.B.O. offers an "adopt an elderly-program" that couples a student with an elderly person, and they have a great time doing activities together. But there is a need for a lot more.

A large group of elderly would like to go shopping in town or at some of their favorite shops, but there is no way for them to get there. If you want to go somewhere or do something nice, you always have to ask somebody to help you get there and back. And most elderly are not used to that. Then there is who do ask and what if they don't want to? So, most of the elderly have to just stay "put," because they don't have enough peers or friends.

On Bonaire we have a great need for social transportation and that is bigger than one might think. In Holland the W.M.O. program was set up for social transportation. All medical transportation was covered. All municipalities cooperated and there were all kinds of social transportation, even long distance rides!

For the public or government to get a good idea of all the needs for social transportation, it would be a good idea to have social workers and or volunteers visit people in their houses to talk about their specific needs and document them. The results of this research could be applied to plans for public transportation. It would be wonderful to be able to combine the different needs and get many elderly Bonaireans out of their social isolation.

And in the meantime, the social clubs on our island could jump in and set up a transportation plan. One can regret the things one did not do.



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.

Calling all young creative minds to compete in the FCCA Essay & Poster Competition

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), in collaboration with the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), is reminding all students and schools across Bonaire to submit their entries for the 2025 FCCA Essay & Poster Competitions.

Competition Categories

Students can submit entries in any of the following four categories: • Junior Division (Ages 12 & under) Essay and Poster Competition • Senior Division (Ages 13-16) Essay and Poster Competition

Competition Themes

Essay Theme: "If I were a cruise passenger, what would I like to see or do in my country?"

Poster Theme: "How to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities?"

Submission deadline is October 22nd, 2025. All entries and official forms must be submitted to TCB by this date. Language: All entries must be in English.



Incredible prizes await winners:

Junior Division & Senior Division each:

- 1st Place: Laptop + \$3,000
- 2nd Place: Touchscreen Device + \$1,500
- 3rd Place: Smartphone + \$1,000

Winners will be announced December 10, 2025

Winning entries will be recognized and celebrated at the prestigious Seatrade 2026 international conference, where awards will be presented to representatives from the winning destinations.

How to enter

Please email marketing@bonaireisland.com to confirm your interest. The TCB team will follow up with the official entry form.

Participants will be competing against students from throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America, making this a truly international event and a platform to showcase the best of Bonaire's talent and ideas.

TCB press release

(See online issue <https://bonairereporter.com> page 22 for poster.)

Creating Optimal Health - Delayed vs instant gratification by Irene da Cunda Costa

Instant gratification is satisfying a desire or urge now for immediate pleasure, while delayed gratification is resisting that immediate reward in favor of a greater, more substantial reward in the future. Instant gratification leads to short-term pleasure and spontaneity but can result in impulsive, poor decisions that compromise long-term health, finances, and relationships. Delayed gratification, though requiring more discipline, fosters long-term success, financial security, better health and stronger mental and social well-being.

There is an evolutionary gap between instant and delayed rewards in humans, rooted in our ancestral environments that has been shaped by both biological and cultural evolution.

Early humans lived in environments where immediate rewards were crucial for survival, this led to the development of a preference for immediate gratification, known as present bias. This bias is characterized by the tendency to favor immediate rewards over larger, delayed ones.

As human societies evolved, especially with the advent of agriculture and structured communities, the ability to delay gratification became advantageous. Traits like patience and self-control contributed to better planning and cooperation. In agrarian societies, individuals who could plan for future harvests and regulate consumption

were more likely to thrive.

Research comparing humans with other primates has shown that while chimpanzees and bonobos can exhibit patience, humans display a higher degree of delayed gratification, especially concerning abstract rewards like money. Interestingly, humans are less willing to wait for food rewards compared to chimpanzees, suggesting that the evolution of patience in humans is more pronounced in abstract contexts.

The ability to delay gratification involves complex cognitive processes, individuals use “cool” cognitive strategies to regulate impulses, allowing them to resist immediate temptations in favor of long-term goals. This is shown in the Marshmallow Test, a famous study in psychology by Walter Mischel where young children were offered one marshmallow immediately or two for waiting. The test aimed to measure a child’s ability to delay gratification and resist immediate impulses for a larger future reward. The kids who managed to control their impulses and delay gratification were the ones who used distracting strategies like covering their eyes with their hands or found other techniques for averting their eyes from the reward objects, others seemed to reduce the frustration of delay of reward by generating their own diversions. They talked to themselves, sang, invented games with their hands and feet and even tried to fall asleep while waiting. The ones who couldn’t do this

were not able to wait for the greater reward.

In today’s world, many of the immediate threats faced by our ancestors are no longer prevalent. However, our brains are still wired for immediate rewards, leading to challenges in situations that require long-term planning, such as saving for retirement or maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The tension between instant and delayed rewards in humans is a product of our evolutionary history. While immediate gratification was essential for survival in ancestral environments, the development of societies and complex planning favored the evolution of delayed gratification. Understanding this evolutionary backdrop can provide insights into human behavior and decision-making in contemporary settings.



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.

A Garden? Just Do It! - Sharing plants by Angliet, Nature Lover

It’s so cool having a lot of birds’ nests in my yard. There are three in different plants, one on the top porch in between the roof and the roof beams and two on the ground level porch. They seem to be everywhere.

In one way it says there is a peaceful atmosphere around my house with plenty of food to feed their babies. And it’s true, with all the green here and no dogs and cats, the birds feel safe and at home here. But, sometimes I see wild cats walking through catching lizards and I occasionally find a dead bird and or feathers. Yes, nature has no mercy, the struggle for life and survival of the fittest as Darwin said.

Today I went to visit my retired friend Miss Annie. We often talk about plants and gardening. Years ago Miss Annie had yard plants in pots and in the soil all over her yard. But she extended her house and no plant survived the building activities. So for a while Miss Annie had no plants and she missed gardening. She started with one plant in a pot and now has plants in pots and all kinds of recycled containers. I guess she felt the taste for gardening again. Miss Annie has hot peppers, yerby hole, wermoes, young plantain plants, herbs and some more. While we were talking about the tough weather and difficult circumstances for growing plants she suddenly took one of her big pepper plants and planted it in a big pot with peppers and gave it to me. I was surprised with this gift and very happy too as I had lost all my pepper plants to age and the extremely hot weather. This young strong pepper plant with very hot peppers are very welcome for my chutneys and hot pickles. I will of course give Miss Annie some cuttings of my plants. And this is what gardening does. It shares and connects, makes friends by giving each other important information and ideas and gives satisfaction and a common love for nature.

One of my neighbors is also a garden friend. He gave me two rare bacoba plants today. All though it’s not



So many birds’ nests in my yard Photo Angliet Baidjoe

the time for planting yet, the baby plants were ready to remove from the mother plant so he did. Years ago I took two of these rare bacoba plants from Surinam and I gave him one. But mine died and his grew up. Now that his plant had baby plants I got the plant back. Hopefully it will grow this time. And that’s how it goes, when you share your plants, you get them back when yours dies.

Last week we were walking through my neighbor’s yard looking at the young fruits of the hoba tree (yellow mombin) and it was full of small green plums. The star fruit had a lot of little fruits but my neighbor complained that the fruits do not ripen well but are stiff and not as

juicy as they used to be and remain small. The knepps fruits dropped without ripening and the bananas are like fingers even when they are behind the bathroom getting water all the time. This is because the air is too dry and even with a lot of watering they still need moisture from the air. With no moisture in the air it is very hard for the plants to survive and they don’t have enough energy to produce juicy good looking fruits .

So don’t expect nice, ripened fruits. Even when the fruits look poor and have a different taste, you can still use them. Make them into marmalades, jams, pickles, chutneys or add them to smoothies, blend them into juices, cut them for a mix salad or bake them in homemade cakes. They are still good enough to use and the health value is still there. They are still better than the ones you buy from other countries which are grown, sprayed with all kinds of chemicals and lost a lot of their quality due to long transport or lying in the stores.

I watch the small garden of Miss Annie and there are not many plants there and some look less vital than those I see in the shops. But I have 100 percent confidence Miss Annie’s plants growing in healthy soil without any pesticide stuff are way better for my health than any vegetable in the stores. So keep on going with gardening, even when it’s hard to do so. At least you know what you get inside and that is very important to know.



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.

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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



Bandit

This is Bandit. He is around 9 months old.

Bandit is a beautiful tabby, with one blind eye, but that does not bother him.

Bandit got his name because he decided to make Van den Tweel supermarket his home. But unfortunately he

had to leave because when the store closed he would serve himself from the deli section for the chicken and ham!

Bandit is very affectionate, and loves to play although sometimes he is a little rough, but never with any bad intentions.

Who wants to give Bandit the forever home he deserves, with all the chicken and ham he wants!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

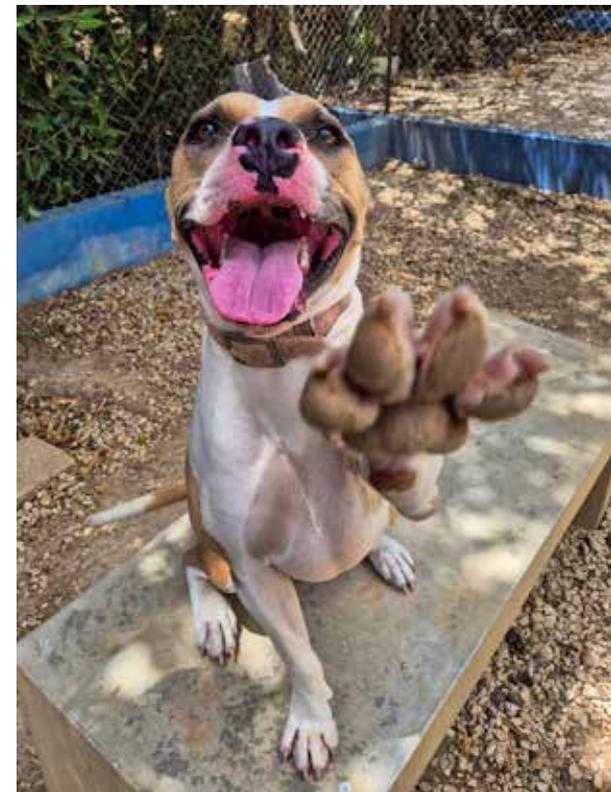
Polly is now REALLY looking for her forever home

Our sweet Polly is once again searching for her own, permanent home, a place where she can stay forever. Polly's story began at the end of 2023 at Fundashon Kunkuku Kakelvers, where she arrived as a little pup. She was adopted, but sadly had to move several times and now finds herself back in a shelter — this time with us at the Animal Shelter.

Important to know: none of this is Polly's fault! She is an incredibly sweet, cheerful dog who is ready to become someone's loyal companion. She loves car rides and already knows some basic commands.

Here at the shelter, Polly is not in her element. She's the kind of dog who wants to go out, explore, and join in on life's adventures. Not just sitting in a yard, but truly being part of things.

It's heartbreaking that she has had to say goodbye so many times already. That's why we are now looking for



Polly

a place where Polly can finally, truly come home.

Would you like to know more about Polly or meet her? Please get in touch with us, let's make sure Polly finds her golden basket, her real forever home, this time.

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Reef Glimpses CLAWS From page 13

pable of snapping, but if that claw is damaged or otherwise useless (this was tested by cutting the nerve to the claw, all in the interest of science), the uninjured smaller claw develops the protrusion and depression, and grows larger, while the original larger claw grows back as the smaller claw. This regenerates the essential snapping claw in the quickest possible way – and no other crustacean with asymmetrical claws has been found to regenerate this way.

Now that I know more about snapping shrimp, I'm wondering if their hesitation in cleaning me was because they were figuring out the perfect killing shot -- just in case the cleaning thing didn't work out.

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.



Save the Date!

Christmas Market at the Animal Shelter – November 30

Join us for a festive day at our Christmas Market! We're looking for people who would like to rent a table to sell food, drinks, handmade crafts, or other festive items. If you have goods you'd like to donate for the market, we'd love to receive them as well. Please send us an email or stop by the shelter for more information. All proceeds will go toward helping the animals in our care.

We can't wait to celebrate the holiday season with you!

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers

Over 800 swim to Klein Bonaire



For the 23rd year the Bonaire Regatta kicked off on October 5 with the Swim to Klein from Eden Beach, benefiting Jong Bonaire. This year's swim (approximately a mile or 1.6 km) was the biggest ever with 800 people of all ages registering and many more signing up to join on swim day. The atmosphere was electric from the start with the competition swim at 7:30 a.m. followed by a dance party type warmup for the group swim that began at 9 a.m.

Safety for all swimmers was insured with safety kayaks, marine park, Wannadive and other boats to aid the swimmers or give them a return ride from Klein if needed.

Winning first Ruben Dekker swam the lap to Klein in 20:51.25 followed by Koen Verhoeven with 20:54.97. Top ladies were Quinn Divine Dalm with 24:36.89 and Suzanne van der Linden finishing 25 seconds later.

Congratulations to everyone.

Story /Photos Julie Morgan



A swimmer, yet to be identified, was seen swimming the trek to Klein and back three times: the competitive swim, group swim and then he headed out again on his own.

Everyone cheered for swimmer Shu Celestina and her six-year-old daughter Suchayne Tokaay on a unicorn floatie as they made it in as the next to last swimmers.



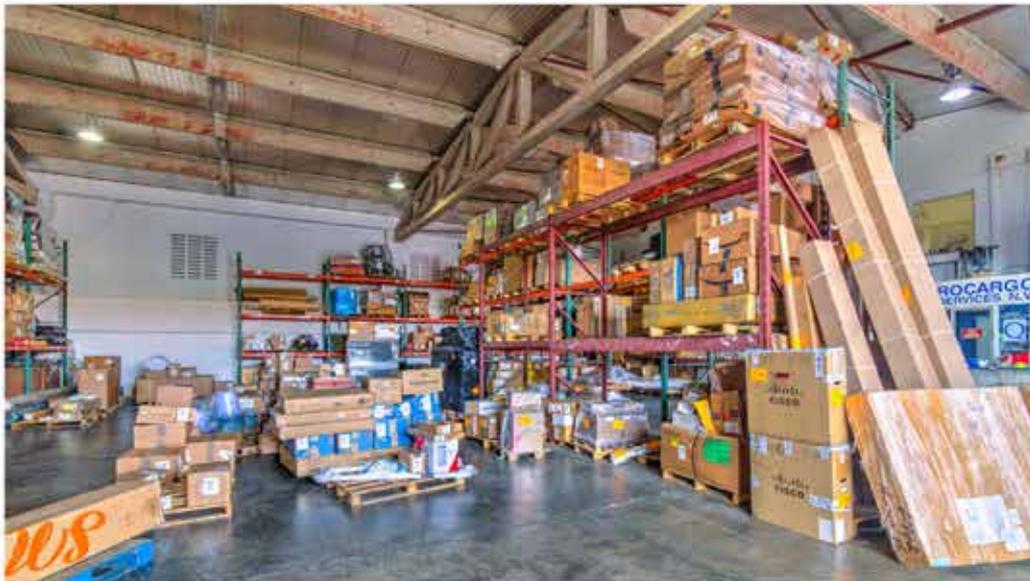
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Caribbean Accounting & Tax Consultants (CATC Bonaire) welcomes Administratiekantoor Brandaris BV to Its Growing Team

Kralendijk, October 2025 — Effective January 1, 2026, CATC Bonaire will acquire all shares of Administratiekantoor Brandaris BV. This partnership brings together two highly experienced accounting firms, combining their strengths to ensure continuity for clients and further expand the range of services available. With this acquisition, CATC Bonaire becomes the largest accounting and advisory firm in the region.

Continuity and familiar faces

Clients of Brandaris BV can expect business as usual, the existing team will remain in place and continue serving them with the same dedication they are accustomed to. In addition, owner Eric van de Keuken will stay on for six months to support a smooth transition.

“It was important to me that my employees and clients would move to a firm that shares our values, accessibility, personal attention, and genuine respect for people. At CATC Bonaire, I found exactly that,” said Eric.

Broader expertise and enhanced services

The merger adds depth and specialization to the combined firm’s capabilities. CATC Bonaire has its own in-house tax specialist, Kees Schilperoord, with expertise in both the Dutch and BES tax systems. The firm also provides business valuations, due diligence reviews, audits, and interim management solutions for situations such as extended leave or illness.

CATC Bonaire is also an official QuickBooks specialist and distributor, and recently became the only certified Odoo partner on Bonaire. Odoo is an integrated open-source ERP platform that allows business owners to manage accounting, invoicing, inventory, POS, CRM, and e-commerce all in one system. Clients who currently use Twinfield, Exact, or AFAS can, of course, continue to do so.

Leadership and vision

The acquisition reflects the shared vision and commitment of CATC Bonaire’s partners and founders Jans Stam van Malsen and Reint Roossien, together with partner Sherry Partosemito. “Collaboration and long term relationships have always been at the heart of our firm,” they said. “We believe that a strong regional presence, paired with personal involvement, is key to sustainable success, for both our clients and our team.”

CATC Bonaire’s day to day operations have been led by Sherry Partosemito for the past two years, who will officially step into the role of Managing Partner in 2026.

“Over the past few years, our team has worked hard to further professionalize and expand our services. Integrating Brandaris BV is a natural next step in that growth. By combining our expertise and retaining their experienced team, we’re building a firm that is not only the largest, but also the most forward thinking in the region,” said Sherry Partosemito.



(L-R) Sherry Partosemito, CATC partner, Jans Stam van Malsen, CATC partner and founder, and Eric van de Keuken, Brandaris owner

New office location

Starting January 1, 2026, the Brandaris BV team will relocate to CATC Bonaire’s office at Kaya Irlandia 15. System integrations will be managed carefully to minimize any disruption to clients. To celebrate the partnership, the firm will host a welcome reception in early 2026, in keeping with Brandaris BV’s annual Carnival tradition.

A word of thanks

Eric van de Keuken added, “I’m deeply grateful for the trust that clients have placed in me and my team over the past 20 years. Together with CATC Bonaire, I look forward to the future with full confidence that our core values, service, quality, and personal connection will remain unchanged.”

About CATC Bonaire

With more than 20 years of experience on Aruba and Bonaire, CATC Bonaire offers a comprehensive suite of services, including accounting, tax advisory, business valuations, due diligence, and interim management. Its team of seasoned professionals supports entrepreneurs at every stage of their business journey. Following the acquisition of Brandaris BV, CATC Bonaire proudly stands as the largest and most trusted accounting firm in the region.





Let's represent Bonaire!

ENTER THE YOUTH ESSAY + POSTER COMPETITION NOW!

Essay Theme

"IF I WERE A CRUISE PASSENGER, WHAT WOULD I LIKE TO SEE OR DO ON MY ISLAND?"

Poster Theme

"HOW TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES"

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2nd Place Touchscreen Device + \$1,500

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Students can submit entries in English in any of the following four categories

- Junior Division (Ages 12 & under) Essay and Poster Competition
- Senior Division (Ages 13-16) Essay and Poster Competition

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DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 22ND, 2025

For more information or to request entry forms, contact: marketing@bonaireisland.com.

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!

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>Mentha menthoides</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral							6:29-7:29 PM (Expected nightly to at least Oct 26; new observations welcome any date)							6:29-6:29 PM	
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15-225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:35-10:00 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)								
<i>Colpophyllia rotunda</i> (25-115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								6:43-6:13 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria striegosa</i> (Early group 30-90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								6:49-7:49 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)							
<i>Eumilia fastigata</i> (75-270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:34-10:49 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicula banksi</i> (90-180 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral								7:49-9:49 PM							
<i>Dendogyra cylindrus</i> (90-180 MAS)	Pillar Coral			7:52-9:02 PM												
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-180 MAS)	Pineapple Coral				7:57-9:07 PM (Expected nightly across the October lunar cycle; new observations encouraged on any date)											
<i>Stichocoenia hirsuta</i> (160-255 MAS)	Brushing Star Coral							9:00-10:35 PM								
<i>Montastraea/Orbicula annulata</i> (185-250 MAS)	Lobed Boulder Star Coral							9:24-10:29 PM								
<i>Montastraea/Orbicula lividula</i> (185-255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral							9:24-10:34 PM								
<i>Solenastrea stokesii</i> (155-200 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral						9:34-10:59 PM									
<i>Pseudodiploria clypea</i> (210-255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								9:49-10:30 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria striegosa</i> (Late group 200-270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral								9:59-10:45 PM							
<i>Machete annalis</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral								all night							
<i>Agericia humilis/Agericia agerichae</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral								all night							

November Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	Wed 6-Nov	Thu 7-Nov	Fri 8-Nov	Sat 9-Nov	Sun 10-Nov	Mon 11-Nov	Tue 12-Nov	Wed 13-Nov	Thu 14-Nov	Fri 15-Nov	Sat 16-Nov	Sun 17-Nov	Mon 18-Nov	Tue 19-Nov
<i>Mentha menthoides</i> (10-70 MAS)	Maze Coral								6:17-7:17 PM (Expected every night through the end of Nov)							
<i>Eumilia fastigata</i> (75-270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral								7:22-10:37 PM							
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85-180 MAS)	Pineapple Coral				7:30-8:40 PM (Has been observed from mid-September to mid-November, new observations are highly encouraged!)											

Fall Sponges, Stars, Gorgs, and More

Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name	NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		DATE	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
<i>Heteractis mesembria</i>	Donkeydung Sea Cucumber															
<i>Hemodice carunculata</i>	Fire Worm															
<i>Dicleria aculeatum</i>	Long-Spined Sea Urchin															
<i>Neobalanus rotundigera</i>	Touch-Me-Not Sponge															
<i>Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunice</i>	Sea Rods															
<i>Plexaura homomalla</i>	Black Sea Rod															
<i>Cophuroidea</i>	Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star															
<i>Pseudopterogorgia</i> spp.	Sea Plume															
<i>Spirastrea giganteus</i>	Christmas Tree Worm															

Abbreviations & Colors

- NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon
 - MBS: Minutes Before Sunset
 - MAS: Minutes After Sunset
 - Lightest 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
- Times are show using a 12h clock (AM/PM)

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, alkhorn, 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 (hoo-ray)
- 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.anyurl.com/CarmabiCa2025.
- New Coral Breeding Reference Sheets:** This new community resource for coral propagation, led by Val Chamberland, is now available to download here: <https://www.orc.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 carmabiog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@seccore.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 Curaçao 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."

