



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone/WhatsApp (+599) 786-4055,
www.bonairereporter.com email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com

Captain Don Habitat in the early 1980's / (photographer unknown)



50 Years of Captain Don's Habitat

For the last 50 years, Captain Don's Habitat has been synonymous with Bonaire and diving. From its beginning in 1976, we've seen countless changes and upgrades since Captain Don Stewart, the father of organized diving and dive tourism, opened the first resort hotel owned by a dive shop, known as Cap'n Don's Habitat.

On September 1, a 50-year Golden Jubilee celebration was marked with drinks, speeches, music, a cake and the announcement of more changes. The former Cap'n Don's Habitat will now be known as Habitat Bonaire Ocean Resort, a part of the Best Western Hotels & Resorts, according to Claire Sealy, managing director of Habitat Bonaire. Don's amazing dive shop, the home of Diving Freedom will remain intact but under a slightly different name: Captain Don's Dive Shop.

Captain Don's Habitat and Captain Don himself form a major part of Bonaire's scuba diving and ocean conservation history.

Diving in Bonaire since 1973, Bill Labarge said, "Don wanted to show me the future of diving, not only on Bonaire, but other islands that would be influenced by what happens on Bonaire. We walked along the coastline from Hotel Bonaire thru the Divi Divi Trees and iguanas and blow holes to a rundown area with little grey shacks. He said I'm going to build the best dive operation in the Caribbean right here. I thought, well the rum has taken hold tonight. But he was a man of vision and huge dreams. In his mind's eye, he knew what Habitat was going to be, what it was going to do, what it was going to become... And he did it. It started with the small, habitat shacks with two bedrooms, a sitting area, kitchen

and a bath. He even had a couple that he called Monks Cells and if you ever stayed in one you would know why, but it made going to Bonaire affordable and even fun.

Oil Slick is a minor leap and on a calm day was easy entry. The fun with Don came on the exit. There was no ladder. You had to climb up the leap to get back to the truck. Don, as only Don could do, insisted that fins remained ON. Try that with the old style Rocket Fins...

Don, developed the best scuba operation in the Caribbean, and it led to the establishment of many other operations trying to match just how good he was. So now the shore is lined with facility after facility swinging on the coattails of Capt'n Don Stewart. Many changes have come, some good, some bad. **Bill LaBarge, dive instructor and basketball referee**

Frank Fennell said, "In July 1976, I had been sent to Bonaire by his [Don's] new business partner in New York, who wanted me to help him manage the new and exciting venture that would become Cap'n Don's Habitat, the first resort hotel owned by a dive shop, called Aquaventure. In early August the government of Bonaire gave its final approval for the transfer of the bankrupted property DeBonaire Bungalows to Don and his business partners, and the company Aqua Habitat was born. We worked as dive guides and construction contractors as time permitted. Appropriately the first part of Habitat that Don determined needed to be restored was the bar... Over the next year, we managed to renovate the cottages, one by one and increase our guest capacity. True to Don's showmanship... his creative description of small rooms as "Monk Cells" cost divers a mere \$5 a night. Of course we had no hot water, so Don would advise guests to 'shower when the sun was still out'."

The serious side of his personality was never more obvious than when the topic was the environment. The current Bonaire Marine Park was the original concept he presented to Carl Steensma, an emissary of the Queen of Holland, who visited Bonaire to take Don's concept back for approval."

Frank Fennell Managing Director at Econergy LLC, formerly of Nikon Underwater

Al Catalfumo of the Black Durgon Inn, first visited Bonaire in 1974.

Don told me the history of the La Machaca sunk behind Habitat. He said it came from the Amazon with a cargo of flies that originally came from Africa. They were causing problems in the Amazon. If someone was bitten, then it caused a disease. He told me the flies transferred the disease to the Damsel fish, so he built Habitat as a hospital for curing the inflicted divers. Don said, 'If someone was bitten and didn't have sex in two hours they would die'." **Al Catalfumo, Black Durgon Inn and Bonaire Donkey Protection League**

Dee Scarr said, "Captain Don invited me to bring my slide show to Captain Don's Habitat which I did for the next quarter of a century. At first, I presented from the outside bar, then they built a classroom by the sea. The old mattresses that were stored there were great for kids; we'd put them up front and when the kids got tired, they'd just fall asleep. The floors were sand, though and every so often one of the Habitat cats would stroll in, dig a hole (always near the wall where the slides were projected), make a deposit, cover it, and stroll away. So much for the professionalism of my presentations.

If you had ice left in your drink, Don taught you to give it to the plants. **Dee Scarr of Touch the Sea**

Cap't Don's Habitat ...to page 4

Cabinet and OLB decide how to solve the Lagun crisis eventually



State Secretary Annet Bertram (Infrastructure and Water Management) paid a whirlwind visit to Bonaire Friday, August 28th. She apparently was preparing for the debate regarding the waste scandal she will have Thursday, September 3rd with the House of Representatives Committee on Kingdom Relations.

Bertram visited the landfill. She also spoke with the Pro Lagun Foundation about the nuisance that local residents have been experiencing for years, the impact on their daily lives, and the potential risks to their health.

“The situation at and around the Selibon Lagun landfill is of great concern, both for the health of the people on Bonaire and the environment” according to the minister. “In the past period, the Public Body Bonaire and Selibon have already taken a number of steps, partly in cooperation with the Central Government.”

Bertram talked with Governor Soliano, the Executive Council, and Selibon regarding “potential solutions and the role of the various parties involved in both the European Netherlands and Bonaire.” Furthermore, Bertram gave the symbolic go-ahead for monitoring the harmfulness to humans and the environment using specialized measuring equipment.

Under Minister Bertram’s leadership, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW), the authority of the Public Body Bonaire (OLB), and the Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) signed a declaration of cooperation. The ILT will take over the Lagun project and, with the total cooperation and support of the agencies involved, create a new waste management structure for Bonaire.

That was the easy part. Now for the complications will need to be dealt with. They are predicted to encumber the waste management project for years.

No permit has yet been issued for the overall project, nor have



State Secretary Annet Bertram
Infrastructure and Water Management

permits been approved for its many subprojects. Companies like Selibon are type 3 companies that operate under the legal authority of the Executive Board. Selibon needs to be redesignated as type 4. Then Infrastructure and Water Management will become the competent authority and can issue the required permits and do the work. The procedure required for the adjustment from type 3 to type 4 takes time.

Yet all parties are determined to accomplish what can be done while that process wends its way through the legal and political process and the ILT eventually has legal authority to proceed.

For example, until an environmental impact permit is issued work could not begin on a facility for sorting out materials from the waste stream that can be used locally (such as organic material, glass and clean construction debris). But the plans for the facility could be completed and waiting. And the hard political decisions could be have been made regarding where the facility will be located. *DMR / OLB photos*



A device that measures air quality, the first of several that will be installed on Bonaire. The ProLagun Foundation was invited to choose the location for the initial location in recognition of the organization’s sustained efforts to call attend the dangers of the air pollution and smoke emitted by the Lagun Landfill. Over the coming months the OLB and the RIVM will select various locations for additional sensors. Plans for measuring the quality of the groundwater beneath and around the landfill are being made too. The measurement results are public and can be viewed via the [RIVM’s Samen Meten \(Measuring Together\)](#) platform.

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Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:

Phone (+599) 786 4055

Email: bonairereporter2019@gmail.com

Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff

Publisher: Julie Morgan

Production: Barbara Lockwood

Website: Michael Copini

Contributors: Angliet Baidjoe, Ria Evers-Dokter, Dee Scarr, Don M Ricks, Irene de Cunda Costa, Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, George Buckley, Bo Attevelt, Carmen Toanchina, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Karine de Wit, Mel McCombie, Janne Schepers; Donna Hudgeon

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Dee Scarr's
Reef Glimpses
will return soon

Island news...
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Curaçao wins Little League World Series Championship

USA TODAY said Curaçao's win over Nevada in the Little League World Series on Sunday "adds another remarkable chapter to one of youth baseball's greatest success stories." "Curaçao proved why it has long been one of the sport's international powerhouses."

Curaçao captured the 2026 Little League World Series title when it defeated Nevada 11-2 at Wil-

liamsport, Pennsylvania. The win was not a fluke. The game was Curaçao's fourth appearance in the Little League World Series Championship in the last six years.

Every summer twenty teams qualify for two Little League play-offs, ten from the U.S. and ten from other countries. Then the two winners face each other in the World Series game. Curaçao won the International Championship by shutting out Japan, and Nevada won the U.S. National Championship by beating Ohio 12-2.

Nevada took an early lead when it scored two runs in the second inning. Curaçao tied the game in the third inning, then held Nevada scoreless for the remaining three innings while putting at least two of its own runners across the plate in every inning.

The game got a little tense in the sixth inning when two Nevada players walked. A Curaçao relief pitcher hit the batter with his first pitch, leaving the bases loaded with only one out. But a strike out, then a long fly ball to center field, ended the game.

Carsynn Meyer played for the Nevada team (from Henderson). She was the first American girl to play in a Little League championship game and the first girl to record a hit and an RBI in the U.S. championship game.

DMR /USA Today Photo



Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
Curaçao	0	0	2	2	4	3	11	12	1
Nevada	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	0



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POLICE REPORT

From August 17 to August 30 the KPCN reported ...

Property crimes

Aug. 30. In the afternoon a gray Toyota Hilux pick-up, registration number V-8424 was stolen from an apartment complex on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. Around 6:30 p.m. the pick-up was found in the mondi in the Seru Angola area.

Aug. 25. Cash was stolen from the reception of a tourist accommodation at Kaya Internashonal. During a police search in the area, a suspicious car was found in the dark. This vehicle was impounded for further investigation.

Aug. 22. A battery from a fat bike was stolen while the fat bike was parked on Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

Aug. 20. A Sym Orbit 2 scooter license plate MF-4544 was stolen while was parked at Kaminda Lagun.

Arrests / Searches

Aug. 21. The Special Assignments Group (GBO) and the criminal investigation department searched a house on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. No goods relevant to the investigation were seized.

Aug. 21. 6:30 p.m. The driver of a car ignored the police order to stop and continued driving at high speed, which led to a chase. During this chase, an object was thrown from the car into the garden of a house Kaya Kuarta. On Kaya Ucayali a 16-year-old boy was arrested after he had run off on foot for not following a police order. A short time later, the police found the vehicle behind a house on Kaya Demerara and confiscated it. The driver was not found. In connection with the investigation, the police have carried out searches at homes on Kaya Kuarta and Kaya Demerara. During these searches, the object was not found and no goods relevant to the investigation were seized.

Driving under the influence

Drivers who register a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. Drivers are legally required to submit to a breath test.

Police reported that 15 drivers (including two scooter drivers) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Drivers were given driving bans of 2, 3, and 5 hours. Six driving licenses were confiscated.

Two drivers were identified when stopped by police for a routine check. One driver drove backwards and crashed her car into a parked vehicle. One scooter driver fell with his scooter on the street; another scooter driver collided with a car. Two drivers were spotted driving recklessly. One driver collided head-on with another car. One driver crashed into the fence of a house. One driver collided with a car and then drove on. A patrol went after this driver and managed to stop him. Another driver was tested after a dirt bike collided with both his car and another and then drove on. A patrol stopped one driver for a check after they saw that he was driving a car with only one license plate.

Two drivers were driving without a valid driver's license and insurance documents. One had already been fined several times for driving without a license and without insurance. Another driver was arrested for the third time for driving under the influence of alcohol.

One driver's vehicle had two different license plates. Police confiscated them.

Police told one man several times not to drive his car because he showed characteristics of someone who was under the influence of alcohol. The police then saw him behind the wheel while the car was parked. Later that night, the car was spotted again and this time the suspect was caught driving. After he tested positive, his driver's license was confiscated.

Two more drivers showed signs of driving under the influence but

couldn't be tested. One of these drivers drove into a garden wall, the other drove into a ditch on Kaya Gilberto F. Croes.

Traffic accidents (breathalyzer test negative)

A scooter hit a minivan when the driver of the minivan wanted to turn on the E.E.G. Boulevard.

A scooter did not give way and collided with a pick-up at the intersection of Kaya Kitara and Kaya Viol.

A fat bike collided with a car on Kaya Sonmontuno.

A car collided with a motorcycle on Kaminda Djabou when the car turned to enter the Kaya Sabaló.

A car collided with a scooter on Kaya Nikiboko South. At the scene, the driver of the scooter was injured and taken to hospital. The driver of the car was fined for driving without a license.

A car collided with a scooter at the intersection of Kaya Herman-dad, Kaya Gilberto F. (Betico) Croes and Kaya Italia. The driver of the scooter was injured and was treated by ambulance staff.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

Speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside. Traffic fines range from \$30 to \$225.

Aug. 19. About 20 vehicles were stopped and checked on Kaya Sonmontuno. Eight fines were issued for driving without: a driver's license (4x), insurance (3x) and a license plate (1x)

August 19. 6:40 p.m. A patrol stopped a car on Kaya Kalipso for a routine check. The driver could not show a driver's license or a valid insurance certificate. Because the police had already stopped and fined this driver several times for the same offences, the driver received a fine and the car was impounded.

Aug. 19. 2 a.m. A patrol stopped a car on Kaya Socrates for a routine check. The driver could not show a driver's license. Because the police had already stopped and fined this driver several times for the same offence, the driver received a fine and the car was impounded.

Public order

Aug. 30. 10:45 p.m. Shots were reported near Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez. Police found several shell casings on Kaya Filomena.

Aug. 28. 9:40 p.m. A fight was reported near a catering establishment on Kaya Korona. When the police arrived, the suspects had already left the location. A discussion between the victim and two men had escalated, and the victim was hit with a boulder.

Aug. 28. 8:20 a.m. At a school on Kaya Frater Odulfinus an object that looked like a firearm was found on a student. The object was confiscated and a strict conversation was held with this student.

Aug. 25. 12 noon. A student brought a kitchen knife in a bag to a school at Kaya Frater Odulfinus. Teachers confiscated the knife and police had a strict conversation with the student.

Aug. 19. In the morning all those present at an address in Antriol were checked for valid residence documents and other permits. Two people were found who were illegally on the island. Both persons were taken away pending return to their country of origin.

The following partners participated in this inspection: the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN), the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (KMar), the Public Entity Bonaire, the Labour Inspection Department of the Social Affairs and Employment Unit (SZW) and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service Caribbean Netherlands (IND CN).

Aug. 17. 10:30 p.m. A group of young people on fat bikes were reported setting off fireworks on Kaya Felipe G. Clarinda. The fireworks were confiscated because they were set off outside the permitted lighting period.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,

I found a property on Bonaire that I really like, but it is already rented out long term. Can I buy the property and then decide if I want to keep the tenant or use the property myself?

Regards, Daniel

Hi Daniel,

This is an important question to ask yourself before making an offer.

When you buy a property that is rented out long term, you generally cannot assume the rental agreement ends when the property changes ownership. In many cases, the rental agreement continues and the new owner has to take over the current rental obligations.

So, before making an offer, ask to see the current rental agreement. Check the rental period, monthly rent, security deposit and the conditions for ending the agreement. It is also important to know if the tenant is paying on time and if there are any existing issues.

If you plan to live in the property yourself or use it as a vacation rental, the existing rental agreement could affect your plans. If you are buying as an investment, having a good tenant already in place can be an advantage.

My advice: understand the rental agreement before you make an offer. When in doubt, have your real estate agent and notary or lawyer review it with you.

Kind regards, Bob

Bob Bartikoski,
Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

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

S

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



Cap't Don's Habitat 50 years...from page 1

George Buckley, a visitor to Captain Don's Habitat since 1976 said, "There was significant building going on in the early 80's at Habitat and the Walkway to the Sea, the white ramp seen in the photo on page one, was designed and largely built by Don, Habitat staff, and enlisted guests (myself and others were fiercely sunburned in the effort). Stan Waterman was soon to bring Boston's pioneering Moray Wheels, handicapped SCUBA group for a film. The ramp was to allow divers in wheelchairs easy access to the sea where a pulley chair device was built to assist entry and exit. The film got wide acclaim at the time premiering at the Boston Sea Rovers evening film festival.

The tank racks held your assigned tank, whose number was your bed number, your equipment number and

your bar number....another of the good Captain's ideas. George "the Clam" Buckley, Co-founder of the Environmental Management and Sustainability programs at the Harvard University

Photographer Pam Brodersen said, "As I remember we stayed in crude cabins, with little electricity or hot water. It for sure wasn't a "hotel." But it was a great time, and the diving was the BEST and Capt. Don kept us entertained with his tall tales. At the time Bonaire was a small island that few people knew of, so glad to have had the opportunity to be part of the first wave. Pam Brodersen, Digital Imagery, www.pambrodersen.com

Julie Morgan

Page 1 photo of Don at sign - Pam Brodersen

Letters & Opinions

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

The loss of Captain Don's Lady, Janet Thibault, is the end of an era in Bonaire. They were "bonded at the hip" so to say, as a loving team that worked together tirelessly for decades to grow Habitat and their small piece of Heaven in Bonaire, their kunuku near Lagun.

As detailed in his book, "My Last Shangri La," Captain Don had left the business world and family life behind in San Francisco, purchased a large sailboat, the *Valerie Queen*, and set sail for adventure and unknown destinations in the Caribbean. After many exploits, he ended up in Bonaire in 1962 and after awhile decided to stay. In 1976 he took ownership of a small cottage colony on the water, next to the power plant and opened his own dive operation, calling it Aquaventure Habitat. He became the father of dive tourism in Bonaire.

Janet and I both arrived that year. She stayed to help Don and I left to an environmental career and returned annually ever since. Janet had a career in finance in New York and was looking to leave that fishbowl. Working collaboratively on projects big and small, they grew and greened Habitat, created a plant nursery, Island Grower; fostered Captain Don's pioneering and water saving drip and shade cloth business, founded the Accolade Awards to recognize environmental achievements, created the famed Habitat Treasure Hunts and worked tirelessly on Don's many writings and then several books. This hap-

pened first at his small house at Habitat, replete with a tree growing right in the middle, and later at their kunuku out on Lagun road which had been a small riding stable that he had owned with Peter Rini. Janet was able to keep up with Captain Don's abundant ideas and projects while still keeping the kunuku operating.

Hundreds of divers and close Bonaire friends have stories and fond memories of visits to the kunuku where Don held forth, usually in his trademark Speedo. A book should be created of those encounters. Since Don's death, many dozens of people have assisted Janet at the kunuku and with her many appointments in town. They all deserve a Huge Thank You! She was fastidious in keeping up with health issues large and small and very much appreciated all the help as well as the fine meal deliveries from the social service agency. She missed her Thelma and Louise movie nights with her dear departed friend Barbara. Habitat and Rum Runners made sure that she got to their Thanksgiving dinner feast every year. She and I worked closely on Captain Don's legacy with his books, film, his Accolade awards for environmental work, protecting the Gouden Verador with Boi Antoin's Museum and with Claire at Habitat to recognize what would have been his hundredth birthday. Through it all, she would not leave the kunuku that she and Don together built. I will miss my visits with her at the kunuku where we vetted issues galore. She would

read every page of the newspapers that I brought...Baron's, the Wall St. Journal, the Boston Globe, and assorted magazines the week I brought them!

With the loss of Captain Don's Lady, Janet Thibault, and Dee Scarr's husband David Batalsky in Bonaire and Robert Ricke of Beneath the Sea, the ocean world family has lost three stalwarts who worked tirelessly to promote ocean education and environmental stewardship.

Raise a toast to a dear friend of Bonaire and to decades of Habitat divers.

The ocean world family has lost three good friends.....

As Stan Waterman said to me, just before he passed, 'George, the ranks are thinning' indeed they are...

Sincerely, George Buckley

Training strengthens professionals working with vulnerable groups



Photo SkyviewBonaire

At the end of August the Bonaire Public Body (OLB) began the follow-up training for Train the Trainers – Empowerment Women. Intended for professionals who work with vulnerable target groups, including young women, the training consists of five training days, followed by an on-the-job training at three of the participating organizations.

Since August 2025, the OLB has been working together with Stichting Lezen en Schrijven from the Netherlands to strengthen professionals through the Directorate of Society and Care. Over the past year, more than 30 profes-

sionals have received training courses on empowerment, parenthood, finance and work, among other topics.

With this follow-up training, professionals gain knowledge, skills and practical tools to better guide people towards more independence, including economic independence. The training focuses in particular on young women from the age of 16, including single mothers who may have to deal with, for example, unemployment, debt, domestic violence or limited opportunities in the field of education and development.

The knowledge from the training can be directly applied in daily practice and shared with colleagues and other professionals.

During the opening, deputy Silberie emphasized the importance of the role of professionals: "You can make a difference by not only looking at what someone cannot do, but also at what someone can do and what possibilities there are still."

OLB release

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Cabinet reports progress in upgrading island health care

Minister Mirjam Sterk (Long-term Care, Youth and Sport) has written to inform the House of Representatives that the Cabinet recognizes the Caribbean Netherlands is not yet being provided facilities for prevention, good care, support, and youth care that are equivalent to those in the European Netherlands. Improvements have been achieved though, and more are being introduced, the minister reports.



Minister Mirjam Sterk
Long-term Care, Youth and Sport

Sterk reported some of her ministry's achievements. The recently launched Caribbean NIX18 campaign on Saba and Sint Eustatius has made parents and shopkeepers aware only those 18 and over are allowed to consume alcohol. That campaign will soon start up on Bonaire too. In addition, playgrounds on every island were renovated last year so that children can play and exercise safely.

An accessible and well-functioning primary health-care system is being improved. All GP practices on Bonaire have achieved NHG-accreditation, and further strengthening of primary care on Saba and Sint Eustatius is being initiated.

The health centers on Saba and Sint Eustatius are increasingly collaborating with the hospital on Bonaire, which will soon allow radiology images to be assessed remotely. To improve access to acute care for patients on Saba and Sint Eustatius, cooperation with Guadeloupe is being initiated as well. *DMR*

Consumers in the CN need more protection report says

The Economisch Bureau Amsterdam has recommended a major overhaul of the extant legislation and regulations intended to protect consumers in the Caribbean Netherlands. It says the BES islanders are the least protected people in the Kingdom against a lack of competition, cartel agreements, and abuse of power by companies. The Bureau's research into market distortion on the islands found "significant gaps" in the measure to protect consumers. The research was commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.



Minister Heleen Herbert
Economic Affairs and Climate

According to the research firm, a more coherent system for consumer protection and fair competition in the Caribbean and European Netherlands would contribute to better market functioning, stronger consumer protection, and a more predictable business and investment climate. Citizens and businesses would have more purchasing power and would receive more equal treatment.

"Competition creates 'economic democracy' by balancing the interests of existing companies, new entrants, and consumers," the researchers said. Competition contributes to lower prices, better access to goods and services, and higher quality. Consumer protection policy focuses on the fair sale of products and services to consumers. Together, they constitute a means to achieve a higher level and a fairer distribution of societal wealth."

Minister Heleen Herbert sent the findings and recommendations to the House. Cabinet is expected to respond later this year. *DMR*

Jan Helmond announces retirement plans

Ministry press release: Jan Helmond has requested the King to grant him resignation as Acting Kingdom Representative effective January 1, 2027. Although his statutory appointment continues until he reaches the age of 70, he has chosen to retire earlier. Until that time, he will continue to dedicate himself fully to the interests of citizens and governments in the Caribbean Netherlands and the Kingdom. After this period, he will apply his knowledge and experience broadly in an independent role as a network/advisor within the Kingdom at his own company.



Jan Helmond
Acting Kingdom Representative

Jan Helmond: "After having held this wonderful position for nine years, it is time for someone else to take over. It is also a natural moment, as the discussion regarding the renewal of the WolBES and the FinBES will in all likelihood require a different type of administrator. Over the past few years, I have experienced intense moments, such as the reconstruction following the hurricanes, COVID, the many changes in leadership, and the administrative intervention on Sint Eustatius. But I have also seen wonderful initiatives that contributed to the well-being of the citizens on the islands. Much has improved, but there is still much to be done."

Vishon Boneiru 2050 says immigration needs to be controlled

Every year since 2020 an estimated 1,000 people have moved to Bonaire. If that level of immigration continues unchecked, by 2050 the population of the island will be around 54,000.

That rate of growth is unsustainable and must be checked, according to the report of the Vishon Boneiru 2050 committee. The Executive Council sent the report to the Island Council, which has scheduled a meeting to consider it. "Bonaire must now make choices and consistently implement those choices. If this does not happen, Bonaire will lose its unique identity and earning capacity, will not be up to the challenges it faces, and will suffer irreparable damage," the commission's report warns. The report recommends many attractive goals that are easy to agree on. But many are incompatible with each other. So implementation will continue to be difficult. *DMR*

Adjusted fuel prices announced

During September Bonaireans will continue to be cushioned from fluctuations in world fuel prices by the Government's policy of averaging out the projected annual costs of fuel. The price of gasoline has decreased from USD 1.70 to USD 1.64 per liter. Diesel is down from USD 1.38 to USD 1.32 per liter.

The price of kerosene remains unchanged, namely USD 0.81. The price of LPG 100 lbs. (large gas cylinder) has decreased from USD 57.00 to USD 54.00. The price of LPG 20 lbs. (small gas cylinder) also shows a slight decrease, namely from USD 12.00 to USD 11.00.

DMR

Downtown drainage being improved

Work has commenced on improving rainwater drainage in the town center, which frequently floods during heavy rains. According to the government press release there will also be an improved layout of the public space, ensuring that the various functions in the center are given the necessary space. This creates a cohesive and functional layout of the town center.

The project is expected to take seven months. During the construction all buildings will remain accessible on foot. Safe and clearly demarcated walking routes will be established for pedestrians. The project area will also remain accessible to emergency services. When temporary closures or detours are necessary, they will be communicated to businesses and residents in advance. *DMR*



Flooding in Bonaire during Storm Bonnie
© Casper Douma / Greenpeace

STINAPA Bonaire strengthens governance and organization with new board structure

STINAPA Bonaire has formally implemented its new governance structure. With the establishment of a Supervisory Board and a Management Board, an important process initiated at the end of 2025 to further strengthen STINAPA's governance, management responsibilities, and organizational continuity is being completed.

The new structure constitutes an important step in the further professionalization of STINAPA and provides a clear basis for effective supervision, transparent decision-making, and a clear division of responsibilities within the organization.

New governance

The new governance structure consists of a Supervisory Board and an Executive Board. The Supervisory Board oversees the functioning of the Executive Board, the policies pursued, and the financial continuity of the organization, and supervises the general course of business within STINAPA. The Executive Board is charged with the administrative direction and day-to-day management of the organization and is responsible for the implementation of STINAPA's policy and strategic direction.

The new governance structure formally enters into force on August 18, 2026. **The Supervisory Board** consists of: Anjelica Cicilia, chairwoman; Peter Hengeveld,

Francis Pieter and Sherwin Pourier. **The Executive Board** consists of Melissa van Hoorn.

Reinforcement of the management

The new governance structure does not stand alone, but is part of a broader development aimed at strengthening the organization. Over the past year, the management team has also been renewed and further expanded.

With the appointment of the Manager Education & Communication in June 2026, the management team is complete. From their various areas of responsibility, the members of the management team work together on the day-to-day management of STINAPA, the further professionalization of the organization, and the execution of its strategic objectives.

The combination of a renewed governance structure and a strengthened management team ensures a clearer separation between supervision, administration, and management. At the same time, this provides room for greater focus, decisiveness, and continuity in the execution of activities.

Ready for the challenges of the future

With the new governance structure and the renewed management team, STINAPA possesses a solid organizational foundation to continue fulfilling its role as a

nature management organization and to prepare for the challenges facing Bonaire.

Pressure on the natural environment is increasing, and developments in the areas of climate change, spatial development, tourism, and the use of natural resources call for expert, careful, and future-oriented nature management.

STINAPA therefore continues to invest in professional organizational development, collaboration, and knowledge, and in strengthening the connection between nature and society.

The organization views collaboration as an essential condition in this regard. Together with the Bonaire community, the government, and local, national, and international partners, STINAPA remains committed to the protection, management, and preservation of Bonaire's unique nature.

The new governance structure and the strengthening of the organization thus represent not an endpoint, but an important foundation for the next phase: a professional, transparent, and future-oriented STINAPA that is ready to protect Bonaire's nature for future generations as well.

STINAPA release

Smeets makes history in Caribbean Chess Cup 2026



Young Christiaan Smeets, member of Bonaire Jeugd Schaakclub has made history by achieving the second place in the Caribbean Chess Cup 2026.

Together with the club coach BJSC Serapio Pop, Christiaan traveled to Aruba where he played a tournament in the highest level, the Open level. There were contest in U12 and U18, but BJSC had no players contending.

From the beginning Christiaan fought hard. He started the tournament with an Elo-rating of 2033. In the tournament he won the best player of Aruba, FM Juan Pablo de Mey and the best of Curaçao, CM Vaibhav Bedi. Only one country participated in this category. In the nine rounds Christiaan won six games and drew two. He drew with Jose Antonio of Panama and Sebastian Ortiz Monsalve of Colombia. The only loss was to defending champion FM Cabralis Quinn of Trinidad and Tobago.

With this result Christiaan scored seven points from nine games with a performance of 2127 Elo-rating. This result puts it up by 48 points of Elo di Fide, official numerical skill measurement for chess players managed

by the International Chess Federation.

Christiaan Smeets has just completed his VWO-6 (final pre-university secondary education) and is planning to leave Bonaire. We wish Christiaan much success with his development in chess and with his studies in the future! The club is planning for Christiaan to give a couple of demonstrations of his games played in the contest before he leaves Bonaire.

Countries participating in the Caribbean Chess Cup were: Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname, US Virgin Islands and Trinidad & Tobago

Serapio Pop BJSC trainer and coach





Photo SkyviewBonaire

Second Washington Park Trail Run is a resounding success, number of participants nearly doubled

The second edition of the Washington Park Trail Run was a huge success. Organizers INDEBON and STINAPA look back with satisfaction on an unforgettable sports event held on Sunday, August 23. Compared to the first edition last year, the number of participants has nearly doubled.

A total of 640 sports enthusiasts participated in the run. Participants had the choice between two routes: a 24-kilometer course and a shorter 10-kilometer route. 83 men and 60 women participated in the 24-kilometer run. The 10-kilometer run attracted far more participants, with 241 men and 259 women. About 50 children ran the route together with one or both parents.

A group of around 70 military personnel from the Ministry of Defence also took part in the run. Their colleagues were present with two mobile ambulances. The day before the race, Defence ensured the reinforcement of the internet signal along the trail route.

Exercising in nature

Management from both INDEBON and STINAPA are satisfied and proud of the high turnout. Terrence de Jongh, head of INDEBON, participated for the second time. “Just like last year, I simply had to join. It is wonderful to be in the park so early in the morning and to run in nature. Last year we had 400 participants, and that number nearly doubled this year. I am very happy about that. We organize this run for the community so that everyone gets the chance to enjoy nature.”

Melissa van Hoorn, director of STINAPA, emphasized the importance of exercising in nature. “I ran the 10 km route, and it was fantastic. Participants were not only able to be active, but also to enjoy the beautiful nature in the park. Sports and nature are important for mental health. We had a higher turnout this year than last year. It shows that people find the event important and cool. Before the run, I spoke with walkers and runners who were looking forward to participating again.”

Results by category

10 kilometers – Men: 1. Matthias van Keulen, 2. Wouter Manler, 3. Bas Koffijberg.

Women: 1. Kelly van Velzen, 2. Irene Schaafsma, 3. Sieta Anema

24 kilometers – Men: 1. Marc Bakker, 2. Jordi Fransen, 3. Luc Laudy.

Women: 1. Josje Peters, 2. Lotte Rothweiler, 3. Laura Schenaarts

INDEBON and STINAPA thank all volunteers and emergency services for their work and dedication during the run. Using the knowledge and experience gained from this second edition, the two organizations will start working to make the next edition even more beautiful, larger, and better.

STINAPA release



Photos SkyviewBonaire

Sports field being renovated thanks to FWNB

Phase one renovation of the sport field Pal'i Tamarein to a multi-unctional sports space is now underway thanks to the generous funding of \$700k by FWNB (Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire).

The field is being converted into a grass court for football (soccer), rugby, hockey and frisbee during the first phase. Other phases will focus on infrastructure for the facility. The work is a collaboration between Indebon, deputy in charge of sports Timoteo Silberie, with Deco N.V. and Edelgrass handling the construction.

For 34 years FWNB has provided financial support in the field of sports, culture, education and individual organizations. But with this donation, FWNB will begin focusing on sustainable projects for the benefit of the entire community.

Phase one of the new facility, which is just outside of Kralendijk on the road to Rincon, is expected to be complete by the end of October.

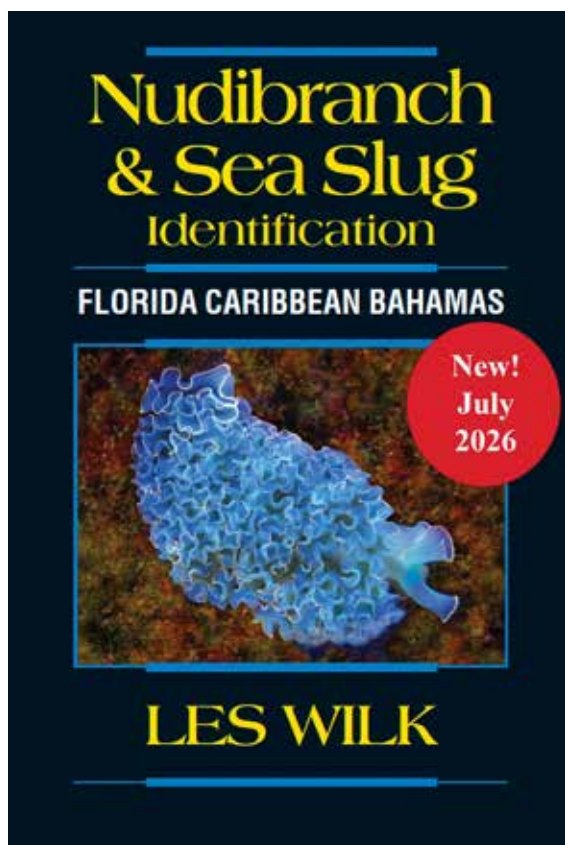
JM / OLB release

Photo – L-R: Timoteo Silberie, Deputy of Sports; Carine Thielman, Administrator FWNB; Loduvico Nicolaas, Board President FWNB; Anne Marie Mercers, director FWNB; Marga van Lieshout, Board Secretary FWNB; Terrence de Jongh, Director Indebon



Buckley's Books

by George Buckley



Nudibranch and Sea Slug Identification: Florida, Caribbean and Bahamas
By Les Wilk

The long awaited new Nudibranch and Sea Slug identification guide for Florida, Caribbean and Bahamas has arrived from New World Publishing. It is well worth the wait with a very detailed review of the ever expanding world of nudibranchs and sea slugs; as such, it is a very major addition to the available literature of these fascinating gastropod mollusks.

Besides the identification guidance, it provides a valuable discussion of the marine ecology of the subjects and the illustrations are spectacular, with over six hundred species shown in phylogenetic order, representing the wide genetic diversity of the group including some that have yet to be named. As researchers in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific have found, the Nudibranchs and Sea Slugs are one of the most diverse of marine animal groups, with new species frequently being discovered and named and this looks to apply also to the regions covered by this publication. Many divers who photograph nudibranchs and sea slugs have been acting as Citizen Scientists, providing researchers with excellent images of often unnamed species. These divers are "Eyes in the Sea" for scientists! The recent decade or two have seen a great increase in the quality of underwater photographic equipment and that can be seen in the many different photographers given image credits.

Wilk has created a wonderfully useable ID guide that works well in print and in its online version. The print edition is easy to flip through to see what you might have while the e-book version also allows users to enlarge the views of specimens. At several hundred pages it is a large field guide with 632 species and 1810 photos. Included in the book are comprehensive lists of both common and scientific names of species.

(A personal note about common names; they tend to be the given local vernacular, not anything that scientists have applied although they often list them. In my global travels I have encountered different common names for some snails and clams from island to island and country to country and language to language. Some common names are a stretch of the imagination)

The use of photographs of living Nudibranchs and Sea Slugs is critical for easy identification as the dead

and preserved specimens quickly lose color and shrivel, often to barely recognizable blobs. The rare exceptions are the now over hundred year old highly detailed glass models of some species made by the Blashka's, glass smiths in Germany. They created them for use in teaching at Museums and Universities. They later left that work to focus on Glass Flowers for Harvard University. A number of animal specimens are on display at Museums at Cornell and Harvard and a few other institutions. Many did not survive the rough handling of the classroom and lab. The very extensive Glass Flower collection is largely based at Harvard's Museum of Natural History on Oxford St. in Cambridge, Mass.

This dynamic work has a set of detailed anatomical diagrams for help in identifications, a section on the groups of nudibranchs and sea slugs and a very comprehensive and descriptive glossary that is of great use to readers. Additionally, a lengthy and highly valuable section of references is included as are photo credits by both page and photographer. This is as complete a guide as I have seen in decades. If you like nudibranchs and sea slugs, get this book!

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.



Island manners and protocol



Shaking hands: Ezzie Cijntje, Senior Protocol & Communications Officer for RC, and Nos Zjilea host Izain Mercera. Photo Julie Morgan

Mangazina di Rei’s August 29th edition of Nos Zjilea was packed full of cultural presentations about decorum or proper behavior in specific social occasions on Bonaire, both in the past and present.

Nos Zjilea host and face of Mangazina di Rei, Izain Mercera, interviewed each guest beginning with **Ezzie Cijntje**, Senior Protocol & Communications Officer for RCN. Ezzie teaches classes on the rules of protocol specifically for Bonaire, to help people develop confi-

dence in any situation. There are rules regarding announcing or listing various dignitaries: Members of the royal family would be first, followed by governors, government officials/politico and commissioners. If everyone has the same level of authority, then alphabetize by name or years of service.

With Flag Day or Dia di Boneiru (Bonaire Day) approaching, it would be a good idea to know the rules regarding flags. If there are two flags, then the most important goes on the right.

If there are three or an uneven number, the Dutch flag goes in the center. On Bonaire Day, as it is the named event, only the Bonaire flag will be flown.

Dress code and etiquette: For an official royal visit dress is conservative, a lounge suit, day dress or smart casual.

Time of arrival is important. If an official event is at 7 p.m. then arrive 10 minutes early and it is acceptable to leave only after all the important speeches. Since Covid shaking hands is not always acceptable. But when you do, always extend your right hand, keeping your left hand visible. In the past, people would use two hands to illustrate they did not have a weapon. If you don’t want to shake hands, then put your left hand over your chest. When meeting someone for the first time, repeat their name, so you can remember it.

The second guest of the day was **Charlton Thomas**, an undertaker of 40 years for Consuela Memorial on Bonaire. Charlton provided some funeral traditions, past and present. In the past, due to the lack of refrigeration, the dead would be buried the same day. If they died in the night, they would be buried the next day. A service would be held eight days later. When someone dies today, the funeral/memorial service is held eight days later. In the old days, church services were held for up to five years after the death. This would be followed by days of mourning. Today a wake

or party of life is held. Where once everyone wore white, black or grey, now people wear colorful costumes to the service with the family usually wearing one identifiable color. One thing that hasn’t changed is that everyone should wear respectful clothes, such as uniforms and suits. Women shouldn’t wear

Nos Zjilea ...to page 20



Charlton Thomas from Consuela Memorial talked of the Island’s funeral traditions, past and present. Photo Julie Morgan

Japanese Pizza by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



2 sheets of filo pastry • Sesame oil • Grated Parmesan cheese • 1/3 block of Konjac root • 1 king oyster mushroom • 12 beech mushrooms (Shimeji) • 1 bunch carrot • 1 radish • 1 spring onion • Piece of cucumber • Grated Parmesan cheese • 20 g (1/2 to 2 T) sushi ginger • 10 g (2 T) wakame • 20 edamame soybeans • Fresh ginger root • Sesame seeds • Soy sauce • Cottage cheese • Miso • Wasabi • Greek yogurt

Brush filo pastry sheets thinly with some sesame oil. Sprinkle them with some grated Parmesan and sesame seeds, stack them on top of each other, and bake them lightly in an oven at 170° C (338° F) until crispy. Stir some miso into the cottage cheese and spread it on the “pizza base.” Cut the konjac into small 4 x 4 mm cubes and marinate them in freshly grated ginger root, some soy sauce, and salt and pepper. Slice the king oyster mushroom into 5 mm thick slices and fry them until golden brown in the frying pan together with the beech mushrooms, lightly seasoned with salt and pepper. Now fry the marinated konjac briefly in the frying pan as well, so that it becomes slightly crispy. Cut the bunch carrots into thin pieces and cook until al dente.

Now distribute mushrooms, carrot, and konjac over the pizza base and sprinkle with the mature grated cheese. Now bake in an oven at 180° C (356° F) for about 10 minutes.

Garnish with cucumber (balls), slices and cubes of radish, finely chopped spring onion, the wakame, and sushi ginger. Stir some wasabi into the yogurt and spread it over the pizza, sprinkle some sesame seeds on top, and enjoy!

Eryngii, also known as the king oyster mushroom, is the largest edible mushroom in the oyster mushroom family. It is recognizable by its thick, fleshy white stem and small light brown cap. Thanks to its firm bite and umami flavor, it is an excellent plant-based meat substitute. In vegetarian and vegan dishes, thick slices of the stalk are often fried as “scallops” because the texture is surprisingly similar. Raw, it has little flavor, but after baking or grilling, it develops a rich umami flavor with nutty notes.

Konjac is a block made from the fiber glucomannan from the root of the konjac plant. It contains almost no calories, carbohydrates, or fat. Feature: firm, slightly rubbery texture and very high in fiber, making it filling.

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



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Make Bonaire Accessible

Bonaire for everyone by Ria Dokter

Not many people know this, but I was born on a very small island in the Waddenzee/Noordzee, called Ameland.

During WW2 the Germans were also stationed there and learned to love the island. So, after the war they came back, as tourists. And that was the beginning of Ameland as a tourist paradise. Lovely, small, nature overload and very quiet.

Many years later the W.M.O. (Social Support Act) was to be introduced in the Netherlands, in 2007. But because Ameland felt that tourism was very important and wanted to make sure that tourism was accessible for everyone. From 2009 – 2012 this got all the attention. Ameland felt very strong that everybody must be able to enjoy the beauty of the island and the hospitality of the islanders. The project was called “Ameland voor iedereen” (Ameland for everyone).

All kinds of specialists came, walked about, made measurements, thought up suggestions and by the end of 2012 they felt that the island was fit for everyone, including all persons with limitations. A beautiful project

that Ameland is still very proud of.

Every beach is accessible, very village and if you want to open a new business, it MUST be accessible for everybody.

Now Bonaire, an island a bit bigger than Ameland, which every tourist loves, and I know for a fact that accessibility is also on the agenda. But if we want to be proud of an accessible Bonaire, there is a lot more to be done.

Bonairean politicians have visited Ameland and I think they also loved the island. Almost all organizations for those with limitations know where Bonaire is located and most organizations want to cooperate with Bonaire, but there is something that keeps things stuck and I wonder why.

Is it money? Does Bonaire want to spend a lot of money for this special project? MiVaBo thinks it is the best thing ever, because when you make Bonaire accessible, it is also accessible for all of our citizens with limitations. Now THAT would make Bonaire really outstand-

ing and special. And I really do not think that money would have to be an issue here. There is money available. You only have to be really able to explain what you need it for.

There are people who say that making Bonaire accessible for everybody might make Bonaire also accessible for those from the region, but would that really be such a big problem? What is everyone so afraid of? Do the persons with limitations, as Bonaireans not deserve better after so many years of waiting, adaptation and years of suffering?

Years ago we could at least go to Holland and get the care that was needed over there. But that is not possible any longer. I think it is time to protest, to let legislation know that the limit is reached. We know better now, we deserve better. Now it is time for us to live in a Bonaire that is good for everyone.



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.

Gathering stories for the slavery museum



John Leerdam Photo Julie Morgan

them. The human suffering will be articulated through imagery with film and video. At least five floors of the building will be dedicated to slavery of 41 countries.

For inspiration and ideas on presentation, Leerdam and his team are gathering information under a type of mentorship with the African American Museum in Washington DC. They are working with historians from Georgetown, Harvard and Colombia Universities and Bloomberg Connects which support the audio/digital guides for the different Holocaust Museums.

“When former Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologized on December 19, 2022 for 250 years of the Netherlands’ involvement in slavery, calling it a ‘crime against humanity,’ he did not include all the countries, only the transatlantic ones and Caribbean. All over the world there were 5.4 million enslaved people,” said Leerdam.”

Ten architectural teams made it past the first tier of an international competition to design the National Slavery Museum. The next step is to narrow the selection of teams to up to five by jurying their designs, vision documents and design proposals for the 96,000 sq ft building and the 270,000 sq ft park. The final team choice(s) will create fully detailed architectural proposals to be submitted to specialized experts and the public for their feedback.

The museum project has a budget of 50 million euro and will be built on Java Island, a former dockland and maritime harbour tied to colonial history in Amsterdam. Completion date is expected in 2030. In addition to the physical museum in Amsterdam, there will be seven different stations worldwide where people have access to the museum content.

Julie Morgan



Amsterdam launches international architectural competition for National Slavery Museum on Java Island-

Image - Copyright Municipality of Amsterdam

During the last week of August, John Leerdam, director and Franc Weerwind, chairman of the board of supervisors for the soon to be realized National Slavery Museum in Amsterdam visited Bonaire. This working visit was to not acquire Bonaire’s slavery artifacts but rather, gather the stories of the people and families who lived under slavery here on Bonaire.

Leerdam explained, they were looking for local stories that would then be shared with researchers to validate. After validation the museum team would work to visualize the oral histories. This is a different approach than just showing artifacts that are interesting to see but mean little to the viewer without the story behind the

Alev is finalist for Ocean Photographer of the Year 2026

Alev Ozten Low is a finalist in Oceanographic magazines' Ocean Photographer of the Year 2026. Alev has two images shortlisted in the new category Hidden World / Oceans Unseen. Her category has 12 other finalists in a sea of 15,000 entries from photographers worldwide. This is the first time a Bonaire-based underwater photographer has reached the finalist stage as Ocean Photographer of the Year.

Alev said, "Beyond the personal achievement, it is especially meaningful to see Bonaire's extraordinary reefs and marine life represented in this new category. It is a wonderful recognition not only me as a photographer, but also for Bonaire and the amazing underwater world that surrounds the island."

Using her Canon G7X Mark II Fantasea housing with CMC macro wet lens and Sea & Sea strobes she captured the Christmas Tree worm spawning during a coral spawn back in September 2020. Her goal was to observe and photograph Pillar Coral spawning. It wasn't happening that night.

Alev said, "You can make all the plans you want but nature has the final say. Instead, there were a number of Christmas tree worms that spawned for about half an hour of pure joy for me.... I try to dive not just for coral spawning, but because there will almost always be some other marine creature doing something interesting



Finalist photos by Alev Ozten Low
Top: Christmas Tree worm spawning, 2020
Bottom: Chocolate-lined Top Snail spawning, 2021

– most likely reproductive in nature."

Tube worms live in the coral substrate and reproduce through broadcast spawning. The male worm releases sperm into the water and the female release eggs. With favorable water currents they meet resulting in larvae that settle on the coral substrate. In the photo, the female is releasing its tiny orange eggs swirling up from the base of the worm, making a beautiful orange trail.

Three things make this image special to Alev: the behavior and fragility of the worm, the colors and the curves.

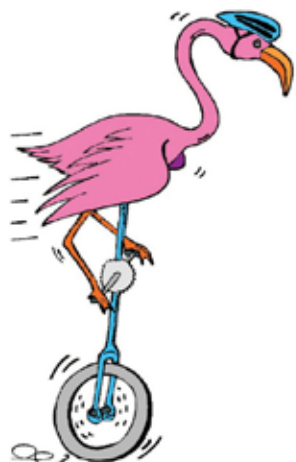
Alev explained that there is something quite touching about watching this delicate creature attempt to reproduce while relying on so many chance happenings. The black background really makes the vibrant yellows and oranges pop. The curves are everywhere in this image: the worm itself, the trail of eggs and the gentle slope of the coral itself all create a sense of harmony.

The Chocolate-lined Top Snail spawning was taken in Jan 2021 with the same camera rig on a regular night dive. After finding the snail, she switched her dive light to red for less disturbance of the snail.



Alev Ozten Low to page 16

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Events, Meetings, Sports

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

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

Animal Shelter's 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).

Apertivo evening from 5 – 8 p.m. Fridays Rosa Cafe. Stop in for a drink & free Italian appetizers.

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

Becoming Movement Club Free monthly event for runners and walkers. Sorobon five-kilometer route Sunday 7.15 a.m. Check [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/becomingmovementclub/).

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels 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).

Cultural activities for the elderly at Hòfi Kultural Tues., Wed. and Fri. at Cultural Garden, Antriol Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: manon@culturalplatform.com or call +599 7708437

Field Hockey. Kids 6-12. Thurs. free training in May & June. Adults train twice weekly. <https://www.facebook.com/people/Bonaire-Hockey-Foundation/61576259612469/>

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

JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire. ALL WELCOME. We play PETANQUE (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Kunuku Allee, Kaminda Lac 38. We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

Live Music Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Every Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

Museum Night, Terramar museum. Free access to galleries last Wednesday of the month. From 6 to 8 p.m., visitors are welcomed into a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy the galleries after hours and join a themed workshop (pay what you can).

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.

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. Social play and beginners from 8 – 10 a.m. Advanced Competitive play from 10 a.m. - Noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 pp

Radio program “Krese” Bonaire's development over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 6 - 7 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. In Papiamentu; A recap is planned in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Radio program “Ban Lesa 2.0” Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. Multilingual; Guests in a warm and personal conversation, talk about a book that has moved them.

Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, 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/> Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts.



Manta Monday Free presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 7, 14, & 21 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; 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. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: info@reefrenewalbonaire.org



Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB). Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. . <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> Nesting season patrol starts in May. Reserve your spots reserving on: <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

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. 1-5; Tues. & Thurs. 8-7; Wed & Fri. 8-5.; Sat. 10-2. 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/terrarmuseumbonaire/>
Each month: **Family Saturday**, Pay a “family” fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. 10 - 12 noon. Register via terrarmuseum@gmail.com or phone. **Museum at Night** Free entrance. 5 to 6:30 p.m. to explore and shop; also **Sisterhood Circle** by Vibra Foundation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Pay what you can. Info. +599 785 4399

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

STINAPA headquarters: Mon-Thur 8-4. Fri 8-12 noon. Sat & Sun Closed +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

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

Tuesdays, 24 weeks starting June 2	Ban Lesa 2.0 at 5:30 p.m. BonFM 102.7 The series celebrates the diversity, and power of Caribbean books. Multilingual.
Aug. 8 - Dec. 1	Tene Pia Seku, Terramar Museum. From shore life and youth perspectives to deep cultural reflection, this exhibition looks at environmental change through the lens of community resilience and care. The exhibit brings together international documentary photography and research with our local contemporary art, historical perspectives and community knowledge.
Friday, Sept. 4	Documentary Film “If Rocks Could Speak: Stories of Slavery” 7 p.m. at Fuhikubo. Free. Donations welcome. see page 15
Sunday, Sept. 6	Bonaire Day - Legal holiday. Much is closed.
Monday, Sept. 7 to Friday, Sept. 11	World Physiotherapy Day is September 8 Bon Bida Bonaire offers a free physiotherapy check during the week of Sept. 7 • Short check and personal advice• Includes a free Health Check • Registration required. see The Bonaire Reporter online -extra pages
Saturday, Sept. 19	TCB's Kids Scavenger Hunt - Free. Ages 8 - 12 in groups of five accompanied by an adult. Registration deadline Friday, Sept. 11. For more information, please contact Angelo Domacasse at 717–8322.
Sunday, Sept. 20	Next Step KLM Nature Walk & Hike Bonaire, 3rd edition. \$20. Register via 5qnmfhag.forms.app/nstnw2026bonaire . https://www.facebook.com/p/KLM-Next-step-Nature-walk-Hike-Bonaire-61560323968534/
Sept. 24 - Oct. 8	Bonaire Culinary Week – Fall Edition
Saturday, Sept. 26	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event - 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink
Sunday, Sept. 27	Two mountain bike races. For partners: Duo Xtreme, Two lengths, Elite 75km & Pro 55km For single riders: Fun race 35km https://www.facebook.com/Bonairextreme/
Sept. 24 - Oct. 8	Bonaire Culinary Week – Fall Edition

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:**

- Fridays 3 - 5 p.m. After School Art. \$20. Ages 8+. Studio Muzo. Materials included.
- 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

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, September 9 <i>(October changed to the 18th at Boka Onima 4-6 p.m.)</i>	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
Saturday, Sept. 26	The Beach Boost collects trash washing up on Bonaire's shores in Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.
Saturday, October 24	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. September 2	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. September 8	0600-1700	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS 2440 guests	South
Wed. September 9	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Wed. September 16	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. September 17	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	North
Wed. September 23	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. September 24	0800-1600	CARNIVAL GLORY 3540 guests	South
Wed. September 30	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 1	0600-1800	CARNIVAL REFLECTION 3046 guests	South

2026

Coral Spawning Predictions
for the Southern Caribbean**September is the best month
for coral spawning**

The biggest coral spawning month of the year is here and CARMABI'S 2026 Coral Spawning Predictions for 2026 are available. Check the calendar and plan your dives or snorkels to witness some of the most amazing events in nature.

Bonaire is always considered a hot spot, so enjoy. And if you are a photographer/videographer you may capture some of your best images ever. See what Alev Ozten Low found on her spawning dives, page 13.

Visit the Reporter extra pages online or download the predictions at: <https://www.researchstationcarmabi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-CARMABI-Coral-Spawning-Predictions-for-the-Southern-Caribbean-FINAL.pdf>

PUBLIC SERVICE**Children's Ombudsman
in Bonaire Sept. 14 -18.**

An important topic during the visit is education on Bonaire. In early July, the Children's Ombudsman sent a letter to the State Secretary for Education and Emancipation, in which she expressed her concerns regarding the shortage of primary school places on Bonaire. Last school year, we received various complaints and reports regarding this. At that time, a group of children could not attend school because there was no place for them.

**A VHF exam will be held on Bonaire
Wednesday, October 14, 2026.**

To take the exam for the Basic Mariphony Certificate send an email to the National Inspectorate of Digital Infrastructure (RDI) via: bes@rdi.nl. In the email, include the keyword "Radio-examens" and state your name, address, email address, and telephone number. You can register until September 23, 2026 at the latest. Cost \$28.

<https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/economie-klimaat/rdi/examen-doen>

Call (+599) 717-3140 or visit the office at Kaya Grandi 69.

FUNDING

A new interdisciplinary grant for artists and cultural organizations has been published on [rijkscultuurfondsen.org](https://www.rijkscultuurfondsen.org).

The funding is for professional artists and cultural organizations that integrate multiple artistic disciplines in their work. Are you an artist whose practice is not confined to a single discipline? Or are you an organisation seeking funding for a project that integrates different disciplines? You may be eligible for the Interdisciplinary grant. The submission deadline is October 1, 2026.

Renovation of private historic residences. From Sept. 1st to 30th private owners can apply for a subsidy for the restoration of their monumental residences. The preservation costs eligible for subsidy must exceed US\$ 25,000 and are subsidised up to US\$100,000. Monuments (historical buildings older than 50 years) without protected status are also eligible. The buildings must be important due to their beauty, artistic value, or historical meaning. See:

<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/s/subsidieregeling-monumenten-caribisch-nederland>

If rocks could speak

The documentary 'Si e baranca por a papia : Storianan di sclavitud' by Aruban journalist and filmmaker Melissa Stamper premieres on Bonaire on Friday, September 4 7 p.m. at Fuhikubo, located at 12 Kaya Irlanda. Admission is free, but a voluntary donation to Fuhikubo is greatly appreciated.

The film is in Papiamentu with English subtitles. Its title means: "If the rocks could speak." In the documentary, Stamper explores Aruba's history of slavery using locations that still form part of the island landscape. The film takes the viewer past Fort Zoutman, Seroe Biento, Moko, Rooi Tambu, and Paardenbaai, among others. Historians and those involved explain which traces of slavery and colonial history are present at these locations and why many of these stories were barely visible in the public memory for a long time.



Melissa Stamper

The documentary has attracted much interest during screenings on Aruba and Curaçao. The premiere on Bonaire marks the next step to screen the film on all sister islands and initiate a broader Caribbean dialogue about this shared past. After all, the colonial and slavery past did not end at the borders of a single island.

BES online campaign

Safe Together Strong Together

The Safe Together Strong Together online campaign will inform BES residents about domestic violence and child abuse, and about the support available on the islands.

In the coming months, videos, stories and informative messages will appear on social media that will help residents better recognize signals of insecurity and know where they can go for support. An important part of the campaign are videos in which residents share their personal experiences with domestic violence or child abuse.

"Many people think that they first need to know for sure what is going on before they can ask for advice. That is not the case. If you are in doubt, call the advice point," says René Clemencia, policy officer responsible for the implementation of the Protection Code in the Caribbean Netherlands. "When something doesn't feel right, when you are worried about someone or when you simply have questions, you can contact the advice point on your island. You don't have to figure it out alone."

You can ask for advice anonymously. Everyone can get information, advice and support at the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Advice Centers on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. A conversation with an advice center can take place anonymously and does not automatically lead to a report or formal process. Especially when someone has doubts, questions or needs advice, a conversation can help to gain more clarity about a situation and possible next steps.

Advice Centers for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Bonaire: Guiami. Tel: 0802 – 0802 available 24/7

Website: <https://www.meldpuntguiami.com>

St. Eustatius: Statia Strong Support Hotline +599 318 4837 available 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saba: Domestic Safety Point +599 416 6936 available 24/7

Follow the [Rijksdienst Caribbean Netherlands](https://www.rijksdienstcaribbeanetherlands.nl) page on Facebook and stay informed about the Safe Together Strong Together campaign.

Communication SSO-CN release

**Next Step KLM Nature
Walk & Hike Bonaire
September 20, 2026**

Location & Time
Start & Finish: Dragstrip Bonaire
10 km Challenge Walk: 6:00 AM
5 km Challenge Hike: 6:30 AM

Registration fee
\$20

Register here:
<https://5qnmfhag.forms.app/rstnw2026bonaire>

or scan code
to register →



KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
Travel Well

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



Race Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026.
6:30 a.m. Mirage Beach Bar (Eden Beach)
See Facebook: [bonairextreme](https://www.facebook.com/bonairextreme)

Did you miss open day screening?



Shahaira Salas-Libier, screening coordinator Photo Julie Morgan

Once again Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland (government health screening organization), joined forces with Fundashon Mariadal for an open day of free health screening of breast, colorectal and cervical cancer on August 26.

A desk was set up in the foyer with women providing information, health benefits, importance of participation, flyers and even setting up appointments. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. women aged 50 – 75 could walk in without an appointment and have a mammogram that day.

Cervical cancer screening for women aged 30-60 is done at the individual's general practitioner and only requires a simple swab. Colorectal cancer screening for men aged 55 – 75 is done by picking up a kit from Bon-Lab.

If you missed the open day and need screening call +599-715 9200 or on WhatsApp +599-781 0476. For more information visit screening-CN.com and follow Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland on Facebook or email screeningCN@rivm.nl

JM

Call For Submissions Photography Exhibition
“WATER WORLD: Above & Below the Surface”
contact SACA <https://www.sacabonaire.com/>



Participate in Konta Bo Ko



ACE (Art, Culture and Education) and the Academy of Papiamentu have joined together to encourage and stimulate creative writing and storytelling in Papiamentu with the Festival Konta Bo Ko. The project is aimed at people aged 21 and over interested in writing storytelling, theater and performance.

In addition to finding new talent and promoting the use of Papiamentu creatively, the work will be performed publicly, recorded and produced as

audio stories.

The end of the project is the Story Festival “Bin Konta Bo Ko” (Come Tell Me). The project gives creatives the opportunity to develop their talent, share their stories and contribute to the use and development of Papiamentu.

To participate you must be 21 or older. To receive a registration form: email - gbinkontaboko@gmail.com or call/text 790 0155.

Alev Ozten Low, Finalist Ocean Photographer of the Year 2026 from page 13

Alev said, “At first, I didn’t realize what was going on, I just noticed little white “things” scattered around the snail.”

On realizing the snail was spawning she could barely keep her regulator in her mouth because she was smiling so wide. Just like the tube worms, these snails are broadcast spawners relying on the current to bring their reproductive cells together.

Alev said, “There is no way to plan for something like this, which is why I feel incredibly lucky to have witnessed both a male and a female spawning on two different nights. Sometimes you just have to get in the water and hope for the best. Capturing something so rare was pure luck – in fact, I could not find any spawning images for this particular snail.”

To Alev, capturing the small details of the eye and the appendage from which the eggs are released speaks to the fact the subject is more of a living creature trying to survive than a shell.

Alev said, “There is something quite miraculous. So much effort, so much vulnerability and ultimately so much left to chance.”

Winners for Oceanographic’s Ocean Photographer of the Year 2026 will be

selected September 10. To see all the images and categories in the competition visit: oceanographicmagazine.com/op/https://oceanographicmagazine.com/winners-gallery/?winnerscategory=ocean-unseen

OPY Announcement on insta: https://www.instagram.com/p/DcNtZ79nNG-f/?img_index=1

About Alev: <https://www.bonairefish.com/about> | Insta: [@bonairefish](https://www.instagram.com/bonairefish) | www.bonairefish.com

The Bonaire Reporter wishes Alev congratulations and success.



Alev Ozten Low

capture

BONAIRE

PHOTO CONTEST 2026

TAKE A PHOTO

Your best image of Bonaire

UPLOAD IT

www.bonaireisland.com/photo-contest/

WIN

Great Prizes!

SUBMIT YOUR PICTURE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16TH

READ ALL ABOUT THE CONTEST ON:

www.bonaireisland.com/photo-contest/

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

The call for a sustainable, self-sufficient Bonaire is growing louder. We must do more gardening so that we have sufficient food in our own environment should a food shortage threaten for any reason.

Although we are quick to say that little can be realized due to Bonaire's climate, quite a few vegetables can grow here. One we can grow and even does well is the aubergine (eggplant). This annual plant loves warmth, plenty of sunlight and thrives in less fertile soil. I have planted it often, and I have also seen it as a successful plant at other gardeners. Now I have two beautiful aubergine plants full of flowers in a large container, and out of enthusiasm, I want to write all about it.

Aubergine, whose Latin name is *Solanum melongena* or *Solanum esculentum*, originates from Myanmar and was introduced to Spain by the Arabs in the Middle Ages. Later, it spread to other parts of the world and became very well known. Aubergine belongs to the Solanaceae family and is a nightshade plant.

Aubergine is popular among vegetarians because it can be used as a meat substitute in many dishes. It is also a main ingredient in many well-known exotic dishes: mous-saka from the Greek kitchen, baba ganoush from Lebanese cuisine, escalivada - a Catalan dish, ratatouille from Provence, imambayildi from Turkish cuisine, parmigiana di melanzane from Italy, and of course the delicious masala aubergine from Surinamese cuisine, stewed with dried shrimp or pieces of fried meat, or vegetarian with pieces of potato. There are plenty of recipes online to put the tastiest aubergine casseroles and stewed (meat) dishes on the table. It can also be grilled or fried, but keep in mind that eggplant absorbs a lot of oil during frying, and you don't want that for your slim figure. Fortunately, there are plenty of recipes to prepare eggplant in other ways.

Aubergine is very healthy, see the nutritional value here: low in calories, high in fiber for good digestion and it also helps keep blood sugar levels healthy. It is rich in vitamins and minerals such as vitamin C, vitamin K, potassium, folic acid, magnesium, manganese, copper, niacin, protein,



carbohydrates, and many antioxidants in the peel that protect the body against cell damage.

Eggplants are actually fruits because they come from a flowering plant and have seeds. There are many varieties of eggplants in many sizes, shapes, and colors. In addition to the deep purple color, they also come in red, green, black and some are also white speckled.

Care

Place seeds in seed pots filled with black garden soil. Allow the sprouted seedlings to grow to about 10-15 centimeters. Transplant the young plants into larger pots or containers. Aubergines can easily grow in pots, but also directly in the garden. This plant requires plenty of sun, warmth, water and extra nutrients. Nutrition can consist of a mix of black soil, animal manure (rabbit manure is very good, or tomato fertilizer), dry leaves, compost, etc. The plant does not like soil that is too firm. A little loose soil with some pebbles mixed in, or some sand at the bottom

is fine. Water at the base of the stem, not over the leaves. Regular watering is necessary, but being too wet is also not good. Fungi love this plant. With tea brewed from neem leaves and spraying every three days, fungi stay away.

Support the main stem with a plant stake due to the heavy fruit. Assist with pollination by tapping on the flowers. As soon as the first flower appears, cut off the top above it so that more shoots grow in the leaf axil, making the plant wider with more branches and fruit.

Two types of eggplant.

The *Solanum melongena* - hardly bitter, purple and has few seeds. Then there is *Solanum aethiopicum*, the bitter variety, which is more of an ornamental eggplant with many seeds, small and orange in color. Cut the eggplant off at the thick stem on the branch. Do not wait until the eggplant is "ripe," because then it becomes hard, green and bitter and is no longer edible. The slightly bitter taste of the eggplant is in the skin, but by soaking it in salt water for about 20 minutes, the bitter taste is drawn out. Pat the eggplant dry if you want to grill or fry it. Sometimes people peel off the skin, but it is precisely in this that a high concentration of nutrients is found. Never eat eggplant raw, because it contains the substances solamargine and solasomine, which can cause gastrointestinal problems. Heating reduces the level of these substances and minimizes the risk of symptoms.

So, with this information, you can really get to work with aubergine in the garden and in the kitchen. Get started now if you want an exotic aubergine dish on the table for Christmas.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Returning to the Caribbean, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



Creating Optimal Health by Irene da Cunda Costa

Violence We Watch, Violence We Learn? ***What Science Says About the Power of Observation***

Imagine a preschool child watching an adult repeatedly punch, kick and strike a large inflatable toy. Minutes later, the child is placed in a room with the same toy. What happens next?

This simple but groundbreaking experiment, known as the Bobo Doll Experiment, changed psychology forever. Conducted in the early 1960s by psychologist Albert Bandura, it demonstrated that children who observed aggressive behavior were far more likely to imitate it. Even more striking, they didn't simply copy the exact actions, they often invented new aggressive behaviors of their own.

Bandura's work introduced the concept of observational learning: we don't learn only through direct experience. We also learn by watching others.

Today, more than sixty years later, that lesson is more relevant than ever.

Modern life surrounds us with violence. Action films often portray heroes solving problems with fists, guns, or explosions. Television, social media and video games expose us to countless scenes where aggression is rewarded, celebrated, or treated as entertainment. Does repeatedly witnessing violence change the way we think and behave?

According to decades of psychological research, the answer is yes, but with important qualifications.

Researchers have consistently found that exposure to vi-

olent media can temporarily increase aggressive thoughts, angry feelings and aggressive behavior. People who watch violent movies or play violent video games often become more likely to interpret ambiguous situations as hostile, respond more aggressively to provocation, or show less empathy immediately afterward. These effects are generally modest but remarkably consistent across hundreds of studies.

One fascinating finding involves desensitization. The more frequently people are exposed to violence, the less emotionally disturbed they become by it. In one study, individuals who had watched a violent movie or played a violent video game were slower to help someone who appeared to be injured than people who had consumed nonviolent media. Researchers concluded that repeated exposure to violence may dull our natural emotional response to another person's suffering.

Studies have also examined violent sports video games. In one series of experiments, participants who played excessively violent versions of football and baseball games displayed more aggressive thoughts, emotions and behaviors than those who played realistic, nonviolent versions of the same sports. This suggests that it is not competition itself that increases aggression, but the violent content added to the game.

However, it is equally important to understand what the research does not say.

Watching violent movies or playing violent games does not automatically make someone a violent criminal. Serious violence results from a complex interaction of personality, upbringing, mental illness, substance abuse, social

environment, and many other influences. Media violence is better understood as one risk factor among many, not a single cause.

Children and adolescents deserve particular attention because they are still developing emotionally and socially. Their brains are highly sensitive to learning through observation, making positive role models especially important. Adults are generally better able to distinguish fantasy from reality, although repeated exposure can still influence attitudes and reduce sensitivity to violence over time.

The lesson from Bandura's famous experiment extends far beyond a child hitting a toy. Human beings are natural imitators. We absorb behaviors, attitudes, and emotional responses from the world around us, often without realizing it.

This doesn't mean we should avoid every action movie or violent video game. Rather, it reminds us that what we repeatedly watch helps shape the mental scripts we carry into everyday life. Just as kindness, cooperation, and compassion can be learned by example, so can aggression.

In the end, perhaps the most powerful question is not whether violence influences us, it does, at least to some degree, but what kinds of examples we choose to surround ourselves with every day.



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

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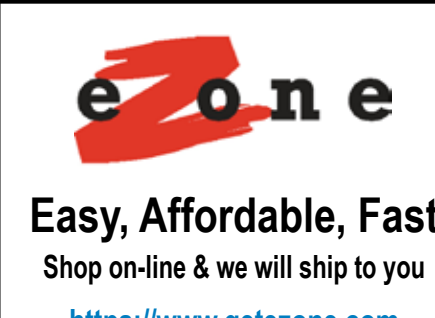
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Pets of the Week

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call/What's App 701-4989 animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Sterre

This is Sterre, a beautiful tortie of about two years old. She is around two years old. She is named after the Van Gogh painting *Sterrenwacht*, because her face looks like the piece

of art. Sterre is a very affectionate and talkative lady.

She was brought to the shelter three months ago and desperately wants a lovely home where she can get all the attention and love she needs. She loves all humans but can be a little picky about her furry companion friends. Will you take this beautiful lady home?

Come meet Sterre at the cat palace!

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Hello all. My name is Rayko. Some of you may recognize me or have heard my story. On December 31st last year I was tied to the fence at Animal Shelter Bonaire, so now I've been a resident here for eight months. I'm a healthy boy full of life and energy and I'm almost 3 years old.

I'm good with other dogs, preferably females, but younger males are also good if we match. I adore children and I'm very gentle with them. I have been on a couple walks, car rides and even had some beach days which I enjoy and sometimes I'm a big giant teddy bear.

I'm still waiting on my forever home, and my own family. I hope this year I can spend the new year in a loving home.

i hope to see you soon.

Story / Photo: Janne Schepers



Rayko

*"An apple a day keeps the doctor away
.... adapted from 1866 Welsh proverb*

Healthy School Meals invitative continues



di Solo, Kolegio Strea Briante and the Special Teaching Places of the Bonaire School Community will receive a healthy breakfast.

Other school initiatives will also promote healthy food. The Nutrition at School Foundation receives a subsidy to provide bread meals for students who cannot bring food from home. School activities such as Fiesta di Salú promote healthy food and a healthy lifestyle. And finally, schools are supported in offering healthier choices in the canteen.

GGD Bonaire / Salubridat Públiko plans to expand Healthy School Meals step by step in the coming years. *OLB release*

Thanks to a GGD Bonaire / Salubridat Públiko initiative, approximately 4,300 students in primary and secondary education will receive fresh fruit at school every day in the new school year. In addition, students from Rayo

US buys billions of barrels of Venezuelan oil reserves

The U.S. oil reserves, eighth in the world, amount to 46 billion barrels. When the ink has dried on the contract President Donald Trump's government just negotiated with Venezuela, the U.S. will control 65 billion additional reserve barrels. The U.S. government is buying a 55% stake in a 100-year oil lease acquired through a joint venture with a private Venezuelan operator.

The war with Iran has created a fuel crisis for the U.S. The war disrupted distribution of about a fifth of the world's oil supply from the middle east. World-wide fuel prices skyrocketed. The United States has had to become a supplier of last resort for many countries, is fueling its own fighting forces in a war, and has angered the American public with high gasoline and diesel prices. In attempting to meet all these demands, the Trump adminis-

tration has drained America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its lowest level in more than four decades.

Although the corrupt Maduro government has been eliminated, skeptical U.S. oil companies show little interest in returning to Venezuela. After taking over in the late 1990s, the socialists allowed the country's oil infrastructure to deteriorate. Production dropped from 3.5 million barrels per day to roughly 150,000. The country is now producing about 1.2 million barrels per day. However, restoring full production would cost billions of dollars in foreign investment and take at least a decade

The U.S. has plenty of oil now. But much of it is in the ground in Venezuela and apparently will stay there for the foreseeable future.

DMR

Carnival Cruise Line Executives visit Bonaire



The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and the Bonaire Harbor Office, welcomed senior representatives of Carnival Cruise Line to Bonaire Wednesday, August 19. The delegation included Sarah Reno, Chief Operations Officer of Carnival Cruise Line, and Marie S. McKenzie, Senior Vice President of Government and Destination Affairs at Carnival Corporation.

The visit allowed participants to exchange perspectives in an open and constructive setting. The conversations addressed shared priorities such as providing a positive visitor experience, creating value for local businesses and the community, maintaining effective operational coordination, and supporting a responsible approach to cruise tourism that reflects Bonaire's character.

TCB release

Nos Zjilea, Island manners and protocol ...from page 10

miniskirts or spaghetti straps. The family often wears corsages for identification. The flower should be on the left for ladies and right for men with the flower turned downward. The corsage on the deceased will be right side up. In a receiving line of the mourning family, visitors should say, "My sincere condolences," "May his/her soul rest in peace," and the family should respond, "Amen" or "God Willing" and not "Thank you." Hugging or kissing of the deceased is not allowed because of the use of embalming chemicals.

Greavy Anthony of Caribbean Netherlands Fire Bri-

gade (BKCEN) and head of the Bonaire Boy Scouts explained how and when to raise and lower a flag, and how to tie the rope knots. He demonstrated two ways to fold the flag. Gravy told the crowd the most important thing is to never let it touch the ground. He illustrated rolling the flag and the triangle fold. The darkest part must be on the outside with the brightest color on the outside.

And as always Nos Zjilea featured homemade local crafts, local food and drinks. Music was provided by local band Nikky Mix with dancing by Monique and Donnie wearing cultural dress which everyone could join.



Nos Zjilea is a free event for Bonaire residents and island guests learn more about the culture of the island held the last Saturday of every month. Visit Mangazina di Rei Facebook page and website for more information. *Story / Photos Julie Morgan*

**Photos: Handling the flag with respect
Left: Mastering the knots
Right: Folding the flag**

Photos Julie Morgan



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2026

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

Eusmilia fastigiata with eggs visible in tentacles before spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Late Nov Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)

Common Name

Meandrina meandrites (10–70 MAS)

Maze Coral

Eusmilia fastigiata (75–270 MAS)

Smooth Flower Coral

Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)

Pineapple Coral

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Tue 24-Nov	Wed 25-Nov	Thu 26-Nov	Fri 27-Nov	Sat 28-Nov	Sun 29-Nov	Mon 30-Nov	Tue 1-Dec	Wed 2-Dec	Thu 3-Dec	Fri 4-Dec	Sat 5-Dec	Sun 6-Dec	Mon 7-Dec
SUNSET	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM
6:18–7:18 PM (Expected nightly through early Dec)														
7:23–10:38 PM														
7:32–8:47 PM (Known to spawn from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: please help us explore their late season spawning!)														

Fall Sponges, Brittle Stars, Gorgognians, and More

Scientific name (and spawning window)

Common Name

Holothuria mexicana

Donkeydung Sea Cucumber

Hermodice carunculata

Fire Worm

Diadema antillarum

Long-Spined Sea Urchin

Neofibularia nolitangere

Touch-Me-Not Sponge

Plexaura, *Pseudoplexaura*, *Eunicia*

Sea Rods

Plexaura homomalla

Black Sea Rod

Ophiuroidea

Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star

Pseudopterogorgia spp.

Sea Plume

Spirobranchus giganteus

Christmas Tree Worm

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep
	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct
	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov
12:00–6:00 PM														
12:00–7:00 PM														
12:00–9:00 PM														
2:00–7:00 PM														
starting at 7:00 PM														
7:00–11:00 PM														
7:30–11:00 PM														
8:00–11:00 PM														
9:00–11:30 PM														

Abbreviations & Colors

NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon

MBS: Minutes Before Sunset

MAS: Minutes After Sunset

Pale yellow: Spawning may be possible but data are sparse:

Please help by diving on these dates

CARMABI orange: Spawning is possible:

Spawning has been observed on these dates

Red: Spawning is likely:

Spawning is often observed on these dates

Dark purple: Spawning is very likely:

Spawning is reliably observed on these dates

Times are shown using a 12h clock (AM/PM)

Colors are distinct for grayscale/CVD



Tips for Success

- Spawning is never guaranteed in a changing climate: When in doubt, dive!
- Our predictions span the known range of spawning times without an added buffer; be sure to enter the water before the predicted spawning time.
- Dive at sites with high coral cover.
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights.
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize time.
- Use a moderately bright dive light.
- Scan the water for clouds of spawn:
 - Spawn from most brain, star, elkhorn, and staghorn corals looks like snow, confetti, or polka dots.
 - Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals (and male great star corals) looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand.
 - Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!)
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times, visit www.timeanddate.com

More Info & Ways to Help

- **Bonus features and PDF download:** Download this PDF, get notified when future calendars are released, and help us measure our reach: Please take our quick survey at www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2026.
- **Coral breeding reference sheets:** This new community resource is led by Val Chamberland: www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting.
- **Spawning community Q&As:** Join us for our Facebook Q&A series; we're answering spawning and larval propagation questions here: www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch.
- **Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is collecting and distributing regional spawning data. 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/stop times, area monitored (m2), # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all valuable! Send reports to carmabilog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@secore.org, kristen@marhaverlab.com, or post your observations at www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch.
- **Epic thanks** to everyone who has shared observations over the past 30+ years. Spawning has been a challenge lately, but larval propagation and genetic conservation teams continue to have success. The Curacao team wishes everyone a safe and productive spawning season!
- **Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007–2026." CARMABI, Curacao.

Page 3 of 3

On September 5, we will be having our Family Saturday, where families only pay a fee of \$10 and can enjoy our exhibitions and activities we have. Family is who you decide.

For Dia di Boneiru, we will be having a pop up exhibition 'Playa di Re' of artist Stephen Rosario and Jaqueline Mariën from 5pm to 7pm.

On September 15, it will be International Day of Democracy. For this we will be focusing on Democracy, Climate and Women, offering a women only tour of our current exhibition.

In collaboration with Miles for Matches, we will hosting the movie 'A Walk to Remember' on September 17.

This months Kids Workshop will be on September 19, where kids will be able to create their own sailboats.

The film 'Lanta riba, Watapana' will be screened on September 24.

Join us for this month's Museum Night on September 30 between 17:00 to 19:00, where the museum will be open extra hours with free entrance for all and the opportunity to explore, shop and experience the museum. This night we will also be offering guided tours.

For information or questions, contacts us!
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- Week of 7 September
- Short check and personal advice
- Includes a free Health Check
- Registration required

NEW THIS MONTH



FALL PREVENTION

- Starts in September
- 12 weeks
- For older adults
- GP referral + ZJCN approval required



COOL 2B FIT

- Starts in September
- Ages 10 to 16
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BONAIRE

Next Step KLM Nature Walk & Hike Bonaire September 20, 2026

Location & Time

Start & Finish: Dragstrip Bonaire

10 km Challenge Walk: 6:00 AM

5 km Challenge Hike: 6:30 AM

Registration fee

\$20

Register here

[https://5qnmfhag.forms.app/
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**REGISTRATION
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We have two links, one for **DUO riders (55 en 75 km)**
en one for **single riders (35 km)**

Bonaire Duo Xtreme MTB race

Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026.

Start 6:30 a.m. Mirage Beach Bar (Eden Beach),

Facebook: bonairextreme

Race director: Jelmer Krap +5997017872. Jelmerkrap@hotmail.com

Elite: <https://www.strava.com/routes/3407502406708213854>

Pro: <https://www.strava.com/routes/3407037331334936224>

Payment (\$50 per team) and collection of race plates will take place on
Saturday, September 26 at Mirage beach bar from 17:00 to 19:00.

Routes (Please note, these may still change in the coming weeks. You
will receive the final routes well in advance).



BONAIRE
CULINARY WEEK

FALL EDITION 2026

Save the date!

Bonaire Culinary Week

FALL EDITION 2026

September 24 – October 8

WHAT IS 'BAN LESA 2.0'?

A new radio series about Caribbean books with a new episode every week!

Starting Tuesday, June 2, the new radio series Ban Lesa 2.0 begins on BonFM. Every week at 5:30 PM, listeners will dive into the richness of Caribbean literature for half an hour. The series consists of 24 episodes of 30 minutes, divided across three languages: eight in Papiamentu, eight in English, and eight in Dutch. In this way, the versatility of the Caribbean language area will be made accessible to a broad audience.



BAN LESA 2.0



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**Shared Shores:
Climate, Community &
Island Resilience**

Inspired by 'Rising Tide' by Kadlr van Lohulzen

Opening Bonaire
8 august 2026
Terramar Museum

Opening Curaçao
27 august 2026
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Winter 2025/2026
starting October 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	DETAILS
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue						✓		Last flight on January 3, 2026
MIAMI	American Airlines	✓		✓		✓	✓*		DAILY Dec. 17, 2025 - Jan. 5, 2026 *Saturdays 2 daily flights (seasonal)
ATLANTA	DELTA			✓*			✓	✓*	*Starting Dec. 20th, seasonal flights
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED						✓		Starting Nov. 1st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tue.
AMSTERDAM	KLM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	*Fri. & Sun. 2 daily flights - Dec. 19, 2025 - Mar. 15 2026
AMSTERDAM	TUI	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Wed Thu Fri direct from AMS
AMSTERDAM	corendon.		✓*					✓	*Starting Oct. 14th - till Oct. 8 on Wednesdays
SANTO DOMINGO SDQ	SKYhigh Dominicana					✓			
CURACAO SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun Tue Thu
CURACAO ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO ARUBA	ZAIR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Please note this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

NEW OPENING HOURS

Headquarters
Monday - Thursday: 8AM - 4PM
Friday: 8AM - 12PM
Saturday - Sunday: **CLOSED**

Washington Slagbaai National Park
Monday: **CLOSED**
Tuesday - Sunday: 8AM - 5PM
Entry allowed till 2:30PM

2026 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule 2nd Sunday of each month		
January 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
February 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
March 8th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
April 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
May 10th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
June 14th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
July 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
August 9th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
September 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
October 18th (Changed)	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
November 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
December 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM

No dogs on beaches

STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems.

Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

Nesting Area Respect: No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

Off-Limits Shores: Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
Playa Chachacha
Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
Fòrn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
Sorobon and Cai
Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
Tolo
Klein Bonaire





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