

AGENDA

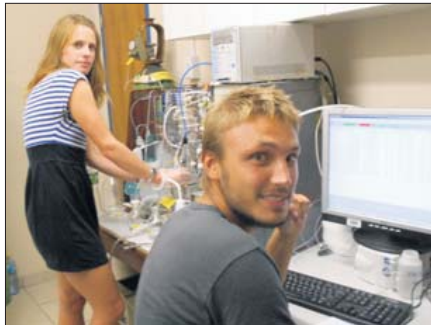
ST. EUSTATIUS
 Police Station 182333
 Emergency 111
 Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
 Hospital 182211/182371
 Landsradio 182210
 Post Office 182207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288
Winair Office 182362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NA&A 113
St. Eustatius National parks: Gallows Bay: 318 2884

SABA
Police Station
The Bottom, tel. 4163237
Emergency 111/112
Hospital
The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289
Fire Department Airport
Flat Point tel. 4162210
SATEL
The Bottom, tel. 4163211
WINAIR, Airport
Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
Taxi Service Airport
Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
The Bottom, tel. 4163311/4163312/4163313
Tourist Office
Windwardside, tel. 4162231
Harbour Office
Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
Saba Marine Park
Fort Bay, tel. 4163295
Nature & Hike Guide
 James Johnson
The Bottom, tel. 4163307
Service Club
 Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
Coastguard NA&A 113
Red Cross
 General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m., Eugenius A. Johnson Center.

ANGUILLA
EMERGENCY
Police 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Police Station 497 2333
Hospital 497 2551
Dental clinic 497 2343
Radio Anguilla 497 2218
Tourism Department 497 2759
Crimestoppers 0800 7777777
AIRLINES
 American Eagle 497 3501
 Winair 497 2748
 Liat 497 5000
 Air Anguilla 497 2643
 Trans Anguilla 497 8690
COURIER SERVICE
 DHL 497 3400
 Federal Express 497 2719
 UPS 497 2239
SERVICE CLUBS
Rotary Club of Anguilla
 Meets at Da Vida every Thursday at 6.00 p.m.
Soroptimist International
 Day Care Centre
 4.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in each month Tel: 497 3509
Lions Club meets every
 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. at the Arts and Craft Centre Tel: 264 235 1280
Interact Club of Anguilla
 Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m. at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School
Toastmaster Club meets every
 2nd and 4th Saturday at 6.45 p.m. at La Vue, South Hill

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Garbage and sponges in Statia Science Café



Alice Webb (left) and Didier de Bakker researching sponges in the laboratory at Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute.

ST. EUSTATIUS—Caribbean Island shores were once a place where interesting or valuable objects could be discovered; however, two serious "beachcombers" told Science Café that modern times have changed all that. Niels Verboon and Amerik Schuitemaker of Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences have started a beach profile and debris survey of St. Eustatius.

"So far, we have found mostly plastic bottles, old shoes and condoms on the shores of the 'Historical Gem'" they explained. "No hidden treasure has been detected or collected; only household garbage."

Before starting out on their quest to identify and weigh their findings, the two scientists first had to map the profile of six main beaches on the island.

"Throughout the year, sands are shifting and the beaches are in a continuous state of change. We

wanted to know where, why and how this happens. In addition to shoreline protection, beaches play host to fascinating and vital ecosystems. They are also a tourist asset and their health often means wealth to local communities."

Zeelandia, Turtle and Lynch beach to the east of the island and Crook's Castle, Oranje Bay and Smoke Alley to the west have been selected for the mapping exercise. To narrow down their research work, the scientists are marking out specific sections or "transects" of each beach between the vegetation and the waterline.

Shifting sands

With the use of a so-called A-frame with digital level and bubble level instruments, they carefully measure the horizontal and vertical contours of the beach. So far, they have mapped out two east-side and two west-side beaches



Island Governor Gerald Berkel and students and teachers of Gwendoline van Putten (GVP) School gathered at the boardwalk in Lower Town on Thursday morning, to give a warm welcome to Dutch "School at Sea" students on board the "Regina Maris" that visited St. Eustatius for the first time. Principal Rosalie Edelstein-Lopes encouraged the two groups of students to mingle and make "lasting friendships." GVP students Yinatra Pieter, Lenardia Brown, Zdjiah Romney and Saskia Brown performed a welcome dance. They were also addressed by Governor Berkel, after which the GVP students boarded the ship for a joint trip to Saba.

at various times of the year for direct comparison.

"Once we plotted our results into our computers, we could see what locals were telling us about: sands come and go without any apparent reason. But, we intend to unravel this mystery and once we have completed our full survey, we will be in a better position to provide the answers."

As far as the garbage collection is concerned, the "Beach Boys" as they were introduced, have literally stumbled over a puzzling trend. Whereas the beaches on both sides of the island embrace the same weight of garbage, the number of individual items found on either side differs by a factor of two. When it comes to frequency of litter, the west or leeward side wins the beauty competition with fewer items of litter.

The study is not yet completed and the Dutch garbage collectors will eventually take their research to beaches on other islands.

"We shall take our dash for trash to Curaçao and Bonaire. There, we expect to find an even greater concentration of litter and hopefully many more answers to questions about our scientific pickings."

Mean clean sponges

Early Europeans dived for sea sponges for their household cleaning chores. As a result, these living creatures were consequently hunted to near extinction. What these Europeans did not know was that sponges not only served man in the bathroom, but also serve mankind by cleaning the oceans.

Statia's waters are no exception in this respect, and scientists Alice Webb and Didier de Bakker are now taking a closer look at how sponges could play a role in the future clean-up.

"Sponges contribute to their water environment and therefore to man in a multitude of ways," said De Bakker. "Their presence ensures that reefs remain stable. They also play host and refuge to many species. But, their celebrity status comes from their ability to absorb Carbon Dioxide (CO2)."

While De Bakker is researching the ecology and lives of sponges, Webb is looking at how Statia's sponges perform when it

comes to filtering waters and dealing with rising levels of CO2 in the atmosphere and oceans.

Their work is part of their PhD from the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research NIOZ and Institute of Biodiversity IMARES.

Based on the Dutch island of Texel, NIOZ has provided a container full of measuring equipment. By using this equipment to set up a laboratory at Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI), Webb now has the means

to see how local sponges react to man-driven changes in the environment.

"Climate change is a result of human activity," said Webb. "But, this woman thinks that sponges could change man's environment for good."

Another element of their research is how sponges can pose a threat to corals since sponges may destroy them to create a habitat of their own. The research should be completed soon and their work published before the end of next year.



The fundraising food sale for Saba fire victim Lillian Leverock and her children.

Statia Fire Department to aid Saba fire victim

SABA/ST. EUSTATIUS--In an effort to aid Saba fire victim Lillian Leverock, the Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department's section in St. Eustatius held a fundraising food sale on Tuesday, in collaboration with NuStar's Fire Team.

Leverock and her children lost their home in St. John's in a fire on November 18.

Leverock is the sister of the late member of Statia's Fire Department Carlos Leverock, who passed away late last year. The deceased firefighter was a native of Saba who had made Statia his home, and served the Fire Department for more than 10 years until his passing.

Both Fire Departments express profound gratitude to the community at large for their support. The Fire Department also thanked CTC Radio and all others who helped make the fundraiser possible.

A presentation will be made to Leverock and her family on Saba, in the second week of January 2016; the funds raised will be announced then.



The two public sector unions ABVO (civil servants) and SAP (police staffers) in Curaçao held an urgent meeting with the Central Committee of Parliament. They want to see changes in the draft new pension regulation for government employees submitted by the Whiteman Cabinet before it's approved. The transition arrangement and payment of the employer's share of BVZ premium for those who choose to keep working until the age of 65 are among the still contested issues.