

December 2007

▶ **Newsletter 4/2007**

STENAPA Update

Highlights of STENAPA activities in 2007

Turtle Program:

The green turtle "Track" that was fitted with a transmitter can be seen in the photo below. "Track" was still in that area.



left Statia on September 2nd for her feeding grounds off Santo Domingo and at her final transmission on December 23rd, was still in that area.

In 2007, 12 nests were marked: five leatherbacks, five greens and two hawksbill nests. 2 nests were lost due to high tides.

12 beach cleanups were held on Zeelandia beach which is the main nesting beach. A beautification project was started there with the objectives of deterring vehicles from driving on the beach, reducing sand mining and preventing further erosion.

Visits to local schools, competitions and presentations were also carried out by the program coordinator throughout the year.

Botanical Garden (Phase II):

This year saw the completion of Phase I of the Botanical Garden and the beginning of Phase II. Because of the size of the area and the lack of manpower, much work continues to go into the maintenance of Phase I in order to control the growth of Corallita and keep grassy areas cut.

Phase II's development of a Children's Garden and a Fruit garden will contain all the local fruit trees that are fast disappearing from the island.

Children Programs:

The regular children's activities were held in 2007. Snorkel Club and Junior Ranger Club were complemented this year by a Junior Ranger II program for older children.



During the summer while school was out, the STENAPA Summer Club program treated around 40 children to some very exciting and educational activities three days a week.

Various school competitions were held and included essay, art and photo categories.

Research/surveys:

Several surveys were completed this year, with the help of interns and visiting experts, all supported by members of staff.

Several of the surveys focused on the fauna of the island.

The research included bird, land crab and goat popula-

tion surveys and an animal husbandry report.

In the Marine Park, a Reef Check monitoring report and a tanker impact study were finalised. Also a habitat map of the Marine Park was completed which is essential for knowing exactly where the reefs, coral, seagrass beds and other bottom environments are located.

10th Anniversary week:

Marking 10 years of protection of our pristine coral reefs and diverse fish populations, the Marine Park held a week of activities in December to celebrate its anniversary.



The Acting Governor General of the Netherlands Antilles Her Excellency Mrs. Adele van der Pluijm-Vrede officially opened the Visitor Centre.

The Statia Park Splash for children on the Wednesday (boat trips, games and fun fair) was very well attended.

A celebration party with prize giving and a buffet was held at the Gin House to close off the week of activities. More on the 10th Anniversary celebrations on the inside pages.



Inside this Publication

2007 Activities	1
Winning entries of the 10th anniversary photo contest.	2
Marine Park Officially Named National Park	3
Quill/Boven	3
Become a Friend of STENAPA	4
Help out at the Gardens	4

Don't forget....

- You can join us for our regular beach cleanups. Watch for the flyers that will be posted around town or call the office.
- Reduce plastic waste and Styrofoam in the environment by thinking a head. E.g. pack your lunch in a reusable dish with a cover instead of Styrofoam.



Winning Photos From 10 Year Anniversary Week



Winner of "Above water" category
Quill from Signal Hill - Ms. Hannah Leslie



Winner of "Macro" category
Blenny - Mr. Glenn Faires



Winner of "Wide Angle" category
Coral reef - Dr. Brenda Kirkby



Second Place in "Above water" category



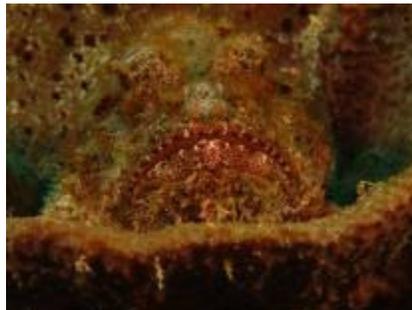
Second Place in "Macro" Category
Friends (Goby and Coney) - Dr. Brenda Kirkby



Second Place in "Wide Angle" category
Squirrel swirl - Dr. Duncan Kirkby



Third Place in "Above water" category
Past and Present - Dr. Brenda Kirkby



Third Place in "Macro" Category
Stonefish face—Dr. Duncan Kirkby



Third Place in "Wide Angle" category
Ray of sun - Dr. Duncan Kirkby

The three "Above water" entries below the blue line received a special mention for their exceptional quality.



Dr. Brenda Kirkby—"Above Water"



Ms. Dagmar Paulus—"Above Water"



Mr. Tim Roberts—"Above Water"

The St. Eustatius Marine Park Achieves National Park Status

Quill/Boven Park Management Plan



After the recent completion of the Marine Park Management plan, the National Parks Foundation in order to comply with management regulations has begun the consultation and research phase for the Quill/Boven National Park management plan.

This plan will encompass the next five years and will include an outline of the goals that the board, management and stakeholders would like to see achieved in the Quill National park in that time span.

A management plan serves as an important reference tool to guide and gauge the progress of the work in the National Park in the coming years.

The National Parks Foundation would like to encourage all stakeholders to cooperate by attending meetings, filling out survey forms and otherwise voicing their opinions so that their views and visions for the Quill National Park can be included in the management plan.

Stakeholders such as taxi drivers, hotels, restaurants etc. will be informed over the next few weeks when meetings and consultations will be held.

As a reminder, the Marine Park management plan is available for review at the office or online on STENAPA's website which is www.statiapark.org.

For all the persons that have been involved in one way or another with the National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) over the years, Monday, December 3rd, turned out to be a very emotional occasion.

Mr. Paul Hoetjes of MINA, the Department of Environment and Nature of the Netherlands Antilles, announced on behalf of the Minister of Public Health & Social Development of the Netherlands Antilles, Mrs. Omayra Leeflang, that the St. Eustatius Marine Park has been officially designated a National Park.

St Eustatius has now become the first island of the Netherlands Antilles to have two National Parks.

While this new status does not automatically bring with it any more funding, it does convey to visitors and residents alike the enormity of the work that has gone into the park and the quality of the management practices that are employed in the daily running of the park.

It is ten years since the Marine Park first opened its office and started operations to install the first moorings for dive sites and yachts. During this time, the Marine Park has gone from strength to strength in its efforts to protect the 27.5km² of

coral reef and sea grass beds in the waters around the entire island of St. Eustatius.

The official new name for the park is the Statia National Marine Park. Unfortunately since this honor came as a complete surprise it will be some time before the general public will be able to see promotional materials bearing this new title. In the meantime the National Parks Foundation will ensure through their ongoing public awareness programs that this achievement is well publicized.

STENAPA thanks all those who made this change in status possible through their hard work, contributions and general support.

A special mention goes to the staff, some of whom have moved on to other jobs, for all their hard work. And to past managers who each in their own way contributed to the continued existence of the Parks.

Also deserving of thanks are the many hardworking interns and volunteers that come to the island to work in the parks. Not only do the interns not receive any compensation, but the volunteers actually pay all their own costs in advance to be able to come and lend a hand.

Plant Sale



Pass by the Visitor Center at Gallows Bay any weekday from 7:00am - 5:00pm

**Prices from Fls 5,- to Fls 50,-
Open during the lunchtime !!**

St Eustatius: National and Marine Parks and Botanical Gardens



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STENAPA is an environmental non-profit foundation on St Eustatius and was established in 1988. The objectives of STENAPA are to upkeep the natural environment, to preserve and protect endangered or endemic species (flora and fauna) and to educate the community about the importance of the protection of the natural environment.

Areas of responsibility include management of the marine park, the national parks and the Miriam C. Schmidt Botanical Gardens. STENAPA is legally delegated by the Island Council to manage these protected areas.

President: Irving Brown
 Vice President: Ronnie Courtar
 Treasurer: Jana Mason
 Secretary: Vacant

Next edition of STENAPA Update available soon with articles on:

- Island-wide flora inventory by Conservation International
- New publication: *Guide to Diving in Statia National Marine Park*
- Annual Report 2007
- The new Children's Garden at the Botanical Garden

Become a "Friend of STENAPA". Join Now!!

The Friends of STENAPA program was launched at the start of the Marine Park anniversary week of celebrations in the first week of December.

It is hoped that this new membership plan will allow nature lovers in the general public to contribute to nature conservation on the island.

This "new look" program comes with five different membership levels each with its own incentive package.

A line of products has also been developed to showcase the new Friends of STENAPA logo. These include among other things, a durable canvas tote-bag made from 100% recycled material, bookmarks, magnets, t-shirts, stickers, towels.



The new logo

All funds will go to the upkeep of the different parks. In particular, maintenance and material costs for the parks can be very high.

A number of local businesses have already signed up to offer discounts to persons presenting their Friends of STENAPA membership card.

Blue Bead	5%	All food and drinks
Brown's Garage	10%	All labor
Dive Statia	2nd hour free	kayak rental
Five Pearls shop	10%	All purchases
I.F. Rivers	5-10%	General merchandise
Largo Heights	10%	Food only
Pandt Steel	10%	Gates/welding repair
Scubaqua	10%	Dive fees (rack rates)
Sonny's	10%	Food (no take-out)
SuperBurger	10%	Hot lunch

Within short all businesses that are a part of the membership program will receive a Friend of STENAPA sticker to display. This will make it easier for members to identify them. The list will be updated and published as new businesses join the program.

Persons wishing to become a member or purchase a gift membership can obtain more detailed information from the National Parks Visitor Center or online on our website (www.statiapark.org).

Lend a hand at the Botanical Gardens

Work is now underway on developing the next phase of the Botanical Gardens. Leveling and planting has begun in the Children's Garden and the Fruit Garden which are the areas that make up Phase II of the Miriam Schmidt Botanical Gardens.



Volunteers making a stone pathway.

There is a diversity of work going on including laying of paths, constructing of low stone walls, taking cuttings, transplanting, watering and weeding.

Anyone who wishes to roll up their sleeves and volunteer can contact the Visitor center for work times and more information. The two new gardens make up more than an acre so any help would be greatly appreciated. Bring a friend!!