

STENAPA Update

10th Anniversary Quill/Boven National Park *20th Anniversary National Park Foundation*

In the second week of December from the 7th to the 14th, the National Parks Foundation celebrated its 20th year of existence. Making it a double celebration was the fact that this year is also the 10th anniversary of the Quill/Boven National Park. STENAPA organised a whole week of events to commemorate the occasion. Particular attention was given to the schedule to ensure that most events could be attended by as much of the general public as possible.

Three guided hikes were held in the weekends before and after the week of celebration. Three hikes were given during the week.



On Sunday the 7th of December there was a guided hike which ended at the Botanical Garden with a picnic to honour all past and present board members for all the work they have put into the Foundation.

In the middle of the week on Wednesday, there was the Statia Park Splash for children at the Statia Terminals playground. It was very well attended despite the occasional showers. At one



point the count was up to 150 children. There was live music by a DJ, face painting, Wet the Ranger, Find treasure on the Quill, Pin the iguana on the Silk Cotton tree, limbo dancing and other activities.



A photo competition was also part of the anniversary week. Well over 100 photos were entered. Winning entries can be seen on page 2 of this newsletter. There were very beautiful entries that did not win a prize but got a special mention because of the quality of the shot.

An island wide treasure hunt was held during the week. It

was designed to get persons out and about and enjoying the beauty of the island. There were clues based in places easy to get to such as Oranjestad and the Botanical garden for those persons who are not the hiking type.

And finally, except for the last two guided hikes planned for the weekend, the anniversary week came to an end at the Statia Terminal playground on Friday evening. A catered barbecue was held for the general public from 4pm. The kids could get a nother shot at the bouncy castle which was such a hit on Wednesday and all competition entrants had to wait nervously until it was dark enough to view the slide show presentations which were a part of the prize giving ceremony.

STENAPA gratefully acknowledges funding from Stichting Doen in the Netherlands; they made all these events possible.



Inside this Publication

10th Anniversary of the Quill/Boven National Park and 20th Anniversary of STENAPA	1
Photo competition winning entries	2
Bird Monitoring Survey	3
Turtle Conservation Training Bonaire	3
WideCast on St. Kitts	3
Friends of Stenapa	4
Whale watching at the Botanical Garden	4

Don't forget....

A glass bottle thrown away today will still be there in the year 3000.

Plastic bags take 20 to 1000 years to degrade and can never actually completely degrade.

We cannot recycle glass at the moment but we can try to reduce our use of plastic bags.

Use your eco-bag, refuse a plastic shopping bag for only one item or ask for an empty box to transport your groceries.



10th Anniversary 2008 Photo Contest Winners

A photo competition was held as a part of the anniversary week of celebrations. Participants could take pictures between December 1st and December 10th 2008. There were three categories that would be judged, namely Statia views, animals and plants. There was a maximum of five pictures per category and entries were accepted through email, memory stick or on compact disc.

Well over a hundred entries were received and the judging was done by Mr. Charles Lindo, Deputy director of the Tourism office and Hannah Leslie, National Park ranger and person in charge of the competition. Winners received a large print of their winning entries in a very attractive photo frame.

Category:

STATIA VIEWS



"Zeelandia from Big Pasture"

Winner : Ms. Pat Wesley

Category:

PLANTS



"Cactus Close-up"

Winner : Ms. Pat Wesley

Category:

ANIMALS



"Caterpillar"

Winner : Ms. Kate Smaby



"Zeelandia Beach with Quill"

2nd Place: Ms. Dagmar Paulus



"Sunlight through branches"

2nd Place: Ms. Claire Winfield



"Killi-Killi"

2nd Place : Mr. Steve Cohen



"Sunrise over St. Kitts"

3rd Place: Ms. Pat Wesley



"Cactus"

3rd Place : Mr. Daniel Adonis



"Lizard shedding in the shade"

3rd Place: Mr. Celford Gibbs

WideCast

Meeting St. Kitts

Bird Survey and Monitoring Training for Staff



In the last week of September and the first few days of October, residents of St. Eustatius will have seen many National Park staff around the island staring up into the sky. There is a perfectly logical explanation for this. Some members of staff were taking part in a course on bird monitoring during that week.

The course was led by Dr. Adrian Del Nevo, a professor at the California State University and CEO of Applied Ecological Solutions, a firm that is hired to solve environmental issues, usually in courts.

Three rangers from the Saba Conservation Foundation came to Statia to take

part in the course. It was a week with a mix of class room lectures and field work.

Participants went in groups of two to various sites on the island and put into practice what they had learned during the lectures. Besides learning to recognize the various island birds on sight, staff are now able to recognize the different birds by their call. Most have agreed that they would like more training in the bird calls as often during monitoring you only hear the bird but still have to record it.

On the final day of the course a short session was given on the proper way of handling a bird to avoid injuring it.



Because of the great enthusiasm shown by the staff during the course, all were given a gift of their own copy of the bird book used while in the field. The course was funded by DCNA, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance.

Turtle Conservation Training

In the third week of October, Marine Park Manager Lee Munson and Office Administrator and Marine Park assistant Jessica Berkel visited our sister island of Bonaire to attend a week long course on turtles. The course focused on research and management techniques of sea turtle conservation and was held by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire. All costs were funded by DCNA, the umbrella organization for parks of the Dutch Antilles and Aruba.

The topics covered included sea turtle anatomy, behavior, feeding habits, nesting, diseases, first aid and rehabilitation and hands on training in properly field techniques for handling a live sea turtle.



The course ended with the performing of a necropsy (a animal autopsy) of a hawk-bill that had died during Hurricane Omar.

All islands participated in the course except for Curacao.

The Annual General Meeting of WideCast was held on St. Kitts at the Ross University of Veterinary Medicine from December 18th to 21st. Attending from St. Eustatius was Parks Manager Nicole Esteban, Marine Park Manager Lee Munson and Marine Park assistant Jessica Berkel.

The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network (WideCast) is dedicated to ensuring a Wider Caribbean region where humans and turtles can live together in a perfect balance. Most of the countries in the WideCast family were able to attend this year and they ranged from Suriname, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Anguilla, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Martinique, Costa Rica to Brazil.

It was very interesting and educational to learn what other countries are doing to protect their turtles and what kind of programs have been successful.

It was especially good to be able to meet other members of WideCast that you only ever get to correspond with by email. Now we can put a face to many of the names that we know so well.

Benefits of vigorous networking at the meeting are that we are now able to expand our Friends of Stenapa program through the use of the WideCast US bank account and we now have access to a lab in the Caribbean that can readily process our turtle samples,

Plant Sale



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

Prices start at Fls 5,-

St Eustatius: National and Marine Parks and Botanical Gardens



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 St. Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles
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 info@statiapark.org



“Friends of STENAPA”

The Friends of STENAPA program allows nature lovers in the general public to contribute to nature conservation on the island.

A number of local businesses now offer discounts to persons presenting their Friends of STENAPA membership card.

Blue Bead	5%	All food and drinks
Brown's Garage	10%	All labour
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
Intermezzo	10% off	Espresso Cocktails

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

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: Ruth Pandt
- Secretary: Ingrid Walther

Next edition of STENAPA Update available soon with articles on:

- New Quill/Boven National Park and Botanical Garden management plan launched
- First phase of annual bird monitoring
- Annual dive centre meeting takes place
- Latest volunteer activities
- Meet the board of STENAPA...

Whale Watching Afternoon at The Miriam Schmidt Botanical Garden

It is almost that time again. Very soon the whales and calves will be passing by Statia on their long migration route from their breeding ground in the Caribbean to their feeding ground in the chilly North.

A perfect vantage point to enjoy the view is the Lookout Garden at the Miriam C. Schmidt Botanical Garden. With the recently installed telescope, visitors to the Garden can now get an up close look at the behavior of these giants as they pass.

Humpbacks exhibit very distinct and interesting behavior patterns. They are very acrobatic and love to breach, which is to jump very high out of the water and slap the water hard as they land. Sometimes they twist in the air while breaching.

They also do something call spyhopping where they poke their heads straight out of the water and look around for about half a minute before sinking back down.

Humpbacks stick their flukes (tail) out of the water and slap the surface very hard which

makes quite a loud sound. That is called lobtailing. They do the same with their fins.

The public is invited to come out to the Garden and spend an afternoon on whale spotting and relaxing. Humpbacks always put on a good show.

Whales can be seen passing on both sides of the island but viewing them from the Garden makes it a two for one trip. Children can enjoy the playground equipment in the Children's Garden while parents relax in the Lookout Garden or take a walk up the Bird trail. The whales will be traveling well into the month of March so if at first you don't succeed.....

