

September 2008

▶ Newsletter 3/2008

STENAPA Update

Boven National Park's Archaeological Treasures



After standing by for 10 years due to an ongoing land dispute, this year STENAPA was finally able to begin actively managing the Boven sector of the National Park.

After a year of surveys, mapping and trail cutting, National Park ranger, Hannah Leslie and interns and volunteers, succeeded in setting out a new trail network in the Northern Hills.

With the help of Dr. Grant Gilmore of SECAR, the many archaeological finds were also surveyed, mapped, photographed and researched. According to Dr. Gilmore, the Northern Hills have some pretty amazing historical areas—'not many archaeologists find evidence of three unmapped slave villages in one day'.

Evidence of various slave villages have been discovered in Boven and Gilboa Hills, such as foundations, living areas etc. And with the help of an old map, it is even possible to link the villages to nearby plantations. The names of the plantation owners are on record (such as Michael Cuvalay) and they undoubtedly would have been the owner of the slaves living in that area.

A sugar mill has also been discovered, complete with coppers and some old equipment. Remains of an old fort are extensive along one of the ridges of Gilboa Hill.

As well as dwellings an impressive amount of very well preserved dry stacked stone walls are present in Boven National Park. With the help of those walls, plantation boundaries were marked and erosion was kept at a minimum so they served a dual purpose.

Also orchards with many fruit trees have survived, such as blackberry trees.

Dr Gilmore shared much of the details of the finds at Boven National Park during a recent radio interview on STENAPA's "Nature on Statia".

A photographic presentation of the information takes place on Wednesday, October 1st, at the National Parks Visitor Center in Gallows Bay at 7:15pm.

Guided hikes to the area are also available with a few days notice. Simply contact the Visitor Centre to make your booking.



STENAPA Receives Funds

At end September, the St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation along with the sister parks on Saba and St. Maarten, received funding from Stichting Doen via DCNA to cover some operational costs for 2008.

Besides urgently needed operational costs (salaries, materials for park maintenance), grant money is included for a new patrol boat. The "Success", our current patrol boat, is over 9 years old and the wear and tear is translating into higher maintenance costs.

Also included are funds to build a retaining wall behind the Visitor Centre to prevent injury or damage from the large rocks that come hurtling down from the cliff almost on a monthly basis.

A new mini-guidebook containing more detailed information on the Quill and Boven National Park trails can now be developed and printed. Lesson plans will be developed, and training given to our staff to start a regular education programme for primary schools from August 2009.



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Don't forget....

Green Tip:

Pouring lemon juice around areas with ants is a great way to repel them. A small bit of lemon juice poured onto minor wounds can help stop bleeding and disinfect the injury (it will sting a bit). Straight lemon juice can be used as a general degreaser.



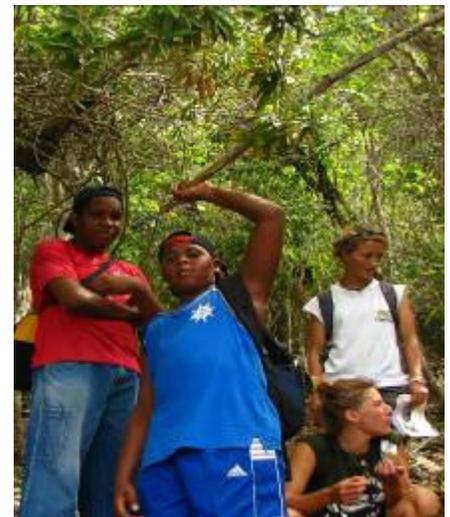
STENAPA Summer Club 2008 Highlights

Summer Club 2008 was another re-sounding success. Some 35 children signed up for four fun activities per week for five weeks. These were held at the Botanical Garden, at the National Parks Visitor Center, in the Marine Park and Quill/Boven National Parks. Students grew grass heads, snorkeled, went on boat rides, learned about sea turtles and hiked various trails while learning about the island's flora and fauna.

Several of the hikes and Botanical Garden activities were filmed by videographer Dwight Barran and shown on Statia's local GIS TV channel 15. The activities were sponsored by SOL which meant STENAPA was able to offer free entry to all students attending Summer Club. SOL even donated boxes of parting gifts for the children at graduation,

It is our hope that next year's Summer club will be just as well attended and just as much fun!

On this page are some photos taken during this year's activities. STENAPA is hoping that some or all of the children who attended will take part in our regular kids clubs that are held during the year, Snorkel club, Junior Ranger I and Junior Ranger II.



STENAPA Junior Rangers Graduate

And Go On To Become Divers

In June nine students successfully graduated Junior Rangers I and II. The two after-school programmes were held weekly and ran concurrent with the school year from September 2007. Students were taught a variety of topics relating to Statia and the broader environment, from how to grow plants to learning about marine life and food chains. The best students from each group were awarded a special prize thanks to the generosity of local donors Dive Statia and Scubaqua.

Student Martijn de Jong learned how to SCUBA dive, Ali Hook achieved Advanced Diver certification, and Revinio Schmidt gained free entry to Junior Rangers II as well as receiving a book on medicinal plants. Matthijs de Bruin also won the opportunity to become a diver but due to circumstances his training will be postponed until next year.

STENAPA hopes that all students who

graduated JRI will return this September for JR II. Those students who have already graduated JR II will be encouraged to do an internship at STENAPA when they reach the appropriate age. It is hoped that in the future they will become involved with the organization as staff or board members and that they will make a positive environmental impact on their beautiful island.

The Junior ranger II program will start on Thursday, September 25th and will have a duration of 9 months. The program consists of 30 lessons with a graduation date scheduled for June 2009. The cost of the entire program is Fls 75,- per child and includes a t-shirt and a cap among others. Registration has started and children ten years and older are encouraged to sign up.

Parents can contact the Visitor Center for any additional information and to register their interested child(ren).



Coastal Cleanup



MP manager, Lee Munson, weighing the bags of garbage which is a requirement of Coastal Cleanup.

The annual International Coastal Cleanup, an initiative of Ocean Conservancy, took place on Saturday, September 20th with more than 140 countries taking part.

Circumstances led STENAPA to hold their cleanup on the Friday before but we are proud to have once again been a part of this worldwide effort.

This year about 20 members of the public and STENAPA staff and volunteers collected a total bag weight of **206.6 kg (150 kg fishing net included)**.

As usual there were some very odd items collected from the beach, from toothbrushes to shotgun shells.

A staggering 301 styrofoam items were collected including cups and take-away dishes.

A total of 2713 items were removed from the beach. This year, the clean up took place on Zeelandia beach.



Staff Training For 2008

There are several training opportunities for staff for the remainder of 2008.

At the end of September a Bird Monitoring workshop will be held. This workshop will be for the duration of one week and will be held all day. There will be theoretical sessions as well as in-field training.

The purpose is to train staff to recognize the various local birds on sight as well as to be able to identify birds by their call. Also important will be the training in the proper methods of collecting data on bird surveys and passing the data on to wider bird observation networks. Participants from Saba will be taking part in the course as well as a representative from St. Maarten. The course is led by Mr. Adrian Del Nevo and organized by DCNA.

In the middle of October National Park Ranger Ms. Hannah Leslie will be on Saba for one week as part of an ongoing DCNA ranger exchange program. She will be working with James Johnson, the Trails Manager from Saba Conservation Foundation, to learn new and different techniques of trail building and erosion control.

Also in October, Marine Park manager Lee Munson and Marine Park assistant Jessica Berkel will be on Bonaire for two weeks. First to attend the international training course on Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles with Sea Turtle Club Bonaire. After that they work in the Bonaire National Marine Park getting acquainted with their daily working practices. This is also funded by DCNA.

Violet Busby, our office manager will be attending a course on financial management before the end of the year. Logistics of that course are still being worked out such as on which island it will take place.

Lastly, Violet, Jessica and Lee Munson will attend a course on project management once details are finalized.

Fishermen Training Workshop

After two attempts, STENAPA has finally secured funds to conduct a training workshop for the local fishermen.

The idea came from the fishermen themselves who wanted a solution for the damage caused to their fish traps by passing boats and tankers. These vessels often rip away the buoys that mark the traps and at the same time drag the traps to a new location. This results in on average 100 ghost traps in the park every year. Considering that each ghost trap can catch up to 100 pounds of fish before disintegrating enough to allow fish to safely pass right through, you can estimate the kind of damage these traps can do to a fisherman's livelihood.

Fishermen will now be trained in galvanic timed release devices, submersible buoys and proper use of a GPS device.

On the successful completion of the workshop the fishermen will be able to keep the brand new GPS units used during the training.

It is hoped that all local fishermen will take part in the workshop as the success of the training is directly correlated to the cooperation of the fishermen and we would love to be able to make a positive report to the funding agency. Notices and more information will be published nearer to the start of the training.

Plant Sale



Pass by the Visitor Center at Gallows Bay any weekday from 7:00am - 4:00pm

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

St Eustatius: National and Marine Parks and Botanical Gardens



National Parks Office
 Gallows Bay
 St. Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles
 Phone/Fax 599-318-2884
 Email: semp@goldenrocknet.com
 info@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:

- The 10th anniversary of the Quill and Boven National Parks
- Birds on Statia
- Efforts to propagate our endemic plant
- What's happening with our children's clubs?

“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 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
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).

The Successful Fruit Garden Area of The Miriam Schmidt Botanical Garden

The development of the Fruit Garden is now well underway. More than a few fruit trees have been planted and are beginning to thrive. We will soon have information signs about growing fruit trees at home.

Among the fruit trees that have already produced fruit are mango, pineapple, banana, fig, lime, pineapple, papaya, banana, grapefruit coffee and sugar apple trees

There are also fruit tree saplings being tended to in the shade house. They are coming along nicely but are not quite ready to be planted out.

Some of those are cocoa, yellow plum, regular red plum, avocado, star fruit, bread fruit, oranges, tangerines, rum berry, strawberry guava and sour sop. There are many more planned however seeds and saplings of for instance the sapodilla are not easy to come by.

Some local residents have been very helpful and provided the garden with particular seeds or saplings that were needed at the

start of the development of this area and the Foundation is very grateful for their help. Their generosity speeded things up considerably.

All the fruit trees were planted for the pleasure of visitors to the garden. Visitors are very welcome to pick a fruit and enjoy a healthy snack. It is not permitted however to fill a sack with fruit to take away as that would leave less for others to enjoy. A variety of vegetables are also being grown for use in the garden and for the plant sale.

