

Students survey shipwrecks



divers with at least open water certification, but some survey programs require more advanced diving certification or skills.

Photography, video, Photogrammetry and underwater drawings are a huge part of the training as this is non-invasive research. Nothing that is found is removed from the survey sites but instead recorded and documented for later research.

In addition, they take GPS coordinates, develop site plans, search maritime history and corroborate historical records. Working with STINAPA they create a detailed inventory of artifacts.

The survey team revisited White Pan, the southwest tip of Bonaire near the Salt Pans. Both snorkel and diving surveys were employed. From 1830 and beyond this was an active area for ships picking up salt. A ballast field is evident, perhaps two wrecks, two anchors and numerous pieces of metal were recorded.

The southwest corner of Klein Bonaire was explored in searching for remains of the schooner Abeonas. It is known through archival research to have traveled regularly from Curaçao to Bonaire with building supplies and run aground in 1837. Surge made the team's research difficult, and nothing was found.

The team performed a pedestrian survey of Spelonk Lighthouse and Keeper's house built in 1910. They measured the Keeper's house and scoured the area finding remnants of copper, ceramic, glass, stoneware and olive-green glass dating to the late 19th c which pre-

Shipwreck survey to page 15

From left to right: Keegan Martin, Spencer Bennett, Ashley Ellison (staff), Vida Jaber, Gavin Johnson, Megan Merritt, Hailey Rauch, Lucy Waller, Ruud Stelten (staff), Alana Overbey, Joost Morsink (staff), Travis Himebaugh, Alex Hinton (staff). The two people on top are Allison Day and Luke Willis. Not pictured, Barry (Spike) Hawkey. Photo Julie Morgan.

Dr. Ruud Stelton's Shipwreck Survey Underwater Archaeology Field School was back on Bonaire to continue their search of underwater historical treasure on Bonaire's reefs January 4-18. The team was not looking for gold booty, although it would be nice to find, but instead historical artifacts that tell the story of Bonaire's rich maritime past. The two-week course concluded with a presentation to the public held by STINAPA on

January 17 at Blooz Resort to report their findings.

This is the third visit to Bonaire of the Shipwreck Survey Field School with the first being in 2015. Stelton, Alex Hinton and three staff members led 12 participants from all walks of life: archaeological students, some searching to find if this is their niche and some archaeological enthusiasts. Participants must be scuba

FOR SALE Bella Vista 21 Great Family Home



- Location: Nikiboko
- Lot size: 505 m2 / 5435 sq. ft. owned land
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pantry, storage shed

- Spacious living room with modern open kitchen
- Large tropical fully fenced in garden

Virtual Tour



Asking price \$439,000 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
 info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
 f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



Pets of the Week



Ginny

Meet Ginny

Ginny is a beautiful lady who will steal your heart at first sight. With her stunning eyes and gentle nature, she's a true gem. Ginny arrived at our shelter

1.5 years ago with her two daughters, and since then, she's shown us what a loving and loyal companion she is.

She absolutely adores cuddles and thrives on being around people. Ginny is not just a people-lover; she also gets along wonderfully with other dogs. Whether it's a stroll along the beach, playing in the sand, or simply relaxing in the sunshine, Ginny is in her element as long as she's surrounded by love. Ginny is great with children and would make the perfect family dog!

We're hoping to find Ginny a warm forever home where she can enjoy all the affection she deserves. Could you be the one to give Ginny her second chance? Visit the shelter and meet this sweetheart in person! *Photo/story: Marissa Lamers*

Hello, this is Luna.

She and her brother Sunny, were brought to the Shelter when their former owners discovered they had a severe cat allergy.

Luna is a one year old cuddle enthusiast, and has a playful side too! And although she loves the company of her brother, Sunny, she is also very content on her own. And she even loves other cats.

Luna has a little kink in her ear, one of the little quirks that make her so special. She is a lovely little goofball, and we would love for her to have her very own home.

Photo/story: Bo Attevelt

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.



Luna

You can also call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Shipwreck survey from page 3

dates construction of the lighthouse. Spelunk is one of five real lighthouses on Bonaire. The island also has three lighthouse beacons. The team dived Karpata exploring the drop-off.

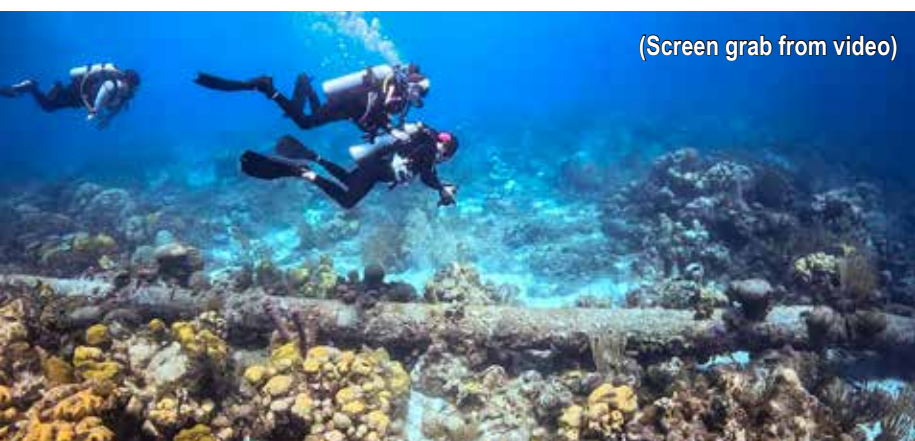
The students had a look at the Windjammer or Mairi Bahn wreck just off BOPEC at 45-60m(148-197ft). A tech diver's dream, the wreck ran aground carrying a load of loose tar from Trinidad that caused the boat to list and sink on December 7, 1912. The ship has two steel masts, one which is 22m (72ft) long and totally encrusted with coral and sponges. The ship was rediscovered in 1968 and stripped by local divers of many of its artifacts including portholes, large amphoras, the binnacle, compass and a lantern. Two artifacts courtesy of

Al Catalfumo and the late Bruce Bowker were on display at the presentation. The students were able to view only the shallow mast due to the limited depth of 40m (130ft) allowed for open water divers.

The Shipwreck Survey has carried out underwater archaeological research on St. Eustatius, Turks & Caicos, Bonaire and gone on two educational shipwreck diving trips in Egypt's Red Sea. They will continue their research on Turks & Caicos and return to Bonaire in July to investigate the historic anchorages of Karpata, Slagbaai and possibly Spelunk.

For more information visit: www.the-shipwrecksurvey.com and socials.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



(Screen grab from video)

Archaeology students explore the mast of the Mairi Bohn (Windjammer).

Animal Shelter Bonaire Volunteers Wanted



Are you an animal lover looking to make a real difference? We're searching for enthusiastic volunteers to care for and bring joy to our dogs and cats. Whether you're a cat whisperer or a dog enthusiast, your help will have a huge impact on their lives.

How can you help?

- Clean enclosures (mornings from 8:30 to 10/11 a.m.)
- Give cuddles and attention to animals in need;
- Provide general care like wash-

ing, brushing, nail clipping and more;
- Walk dogs, brush cats and keep them happy

We offer flexible hours and a fun, dynamic environment where there's always something to do. Interested? Send an email to animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or drop by and give it a try.

Together, we can create a safe and loving space for our animals. Make every day a special one at Animal Shelter Bonaire!

Marissa Lamers

2025 is the 50th anniversary of Carnaval on Bonaire. The celebration kicks in mid-February with the election of Carnaval Royalty. Warmup parties begin then and continue right up until the extravagant March 1-4 parades. Having prepared their souls, Bonaireans devote themselves to the serious business of celebrating Lent.

2025 Karnaval schedule

February - Elections and Parties

Feb. 7. Election Teens • **Feb. 8.** Election Adult Queen, Prince, and Pancho • **Feb. 9.** Election Youth Queen, Prince, and Pancho • **Feb. 13.** Festival di Tumba Grandi. • **Feb. 14.** Valentine Neon Jump

Walk. • **Feb. 15.** Festival di Tumba Grandi Finale • **Feb. 16.** Festival Tumba Youth • **Feb. 22.** Karnaval Youth Rincon • **Feb. 23.** Karnaval Youth Playa • **Feb. 28.** Jump Up Grandparents • **Feb. 29.** Teen Parade

March - Main Karnaval Parades

Mar. 1. Adult Grand Karnaval Parade in Rincon • **Mar. 2.** Adult Grand Karnaval Parade in Kralendijk (Playa) • **Mar. 3.** Children's Farewell Karnaval Parade • **Mar. 4.** Adult Farewell Grand Karnaval Nighttime Parade in Kralendijk with the Burning of King Momo at Midnight • **Mar. 8.** Fiesta Closes with Awards.