

Sea Turtle Exhibition at PJB



A wall of bright colours



Looking at unhatched turtle eggs in a jar



Learning about different turtle species

In October all primary schools were invited to visit Nature Foundation's 2-week Sea Turtle exhibition at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

The exhibition featured all the entries of children ages 8 through 12 who participated in the Sea turtle colouring and essay contest.

There were also large, interactive information boards with facts about Sea turtles versus land turtles, Sea turtle conservation, ecology, nesting and hatching and threats to Sea turtles.

A heartfelt word of thanks to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library for offering to showcase the children's creative works and helping us to bring awareness about Sea turtles!



Looking at a hatchling



The three happy prize winners

Coming up ...

Annual Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation (WIDECAST) meeting on St. Kitts—December 18th-21st

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Nature Foundation St. Maarten

Wellsburg Street 1A
Fisherman's Wharf
Unit 25 – 26
Cole Bay

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 863
Philipsburg
St. Maarten, N.A.

Phone: 599-544-4267

Fax: 599-544-4268

info@naturefoundationsxm.org

www.naturefoundationsxm.org

Staff
Beverly Mae Nisbeth

Manager

Marisa Brandy

Office Manager

Etienne Lake

Marine Park Ranger

Board of Directors

Jan Beaujon — Chairman

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Dear Friends,

We are once again at the end of another year!

This year we've had many challenges but our perseverance bore the fruit of many successes thanks to support from the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) and the DOEN Fund.

As a matter of fact, the last year and a half were rough with only two staff but we're still here and we ended 2008 with many triumphs, particularly the addition of a new staff member.

To every individual and/or business that has supported us either by word or deed, we are deeply grateful and we appreciate your continued support.

We pledge to continue doing the best that we can within our means for our environment and for the general interest of the community.

Compliments of the Season and a Happy & Healthy 2009 to each of you!

Sincerely,

Beverly Mae Nisbeth, MSc.

Manager

Mooring installation in the Marine Park finally underway

The moorings in the marine park were in a state of disrepair for the last two years because of insufficient staffing and mooring supplies. Thankfully during that time many of the dive shops took the initiative to install make-shift moorings in order to safeguard the coral reefs from anchoring.

In March 2008 we were finally

able to replenish our stock of mooring supplies with a grant from the MINA Fund and start with re-installment after hiring a ranger in July.

Intense mooring installation efforts were boosted with the help of members of the dive shops and ranger James Blair of St. Eustatius National Parks (STENAPA). Installations will be ongoing. We aim to increase the number of dive moorings from 20 to 28.



SCOUT comes alive in an adventure story

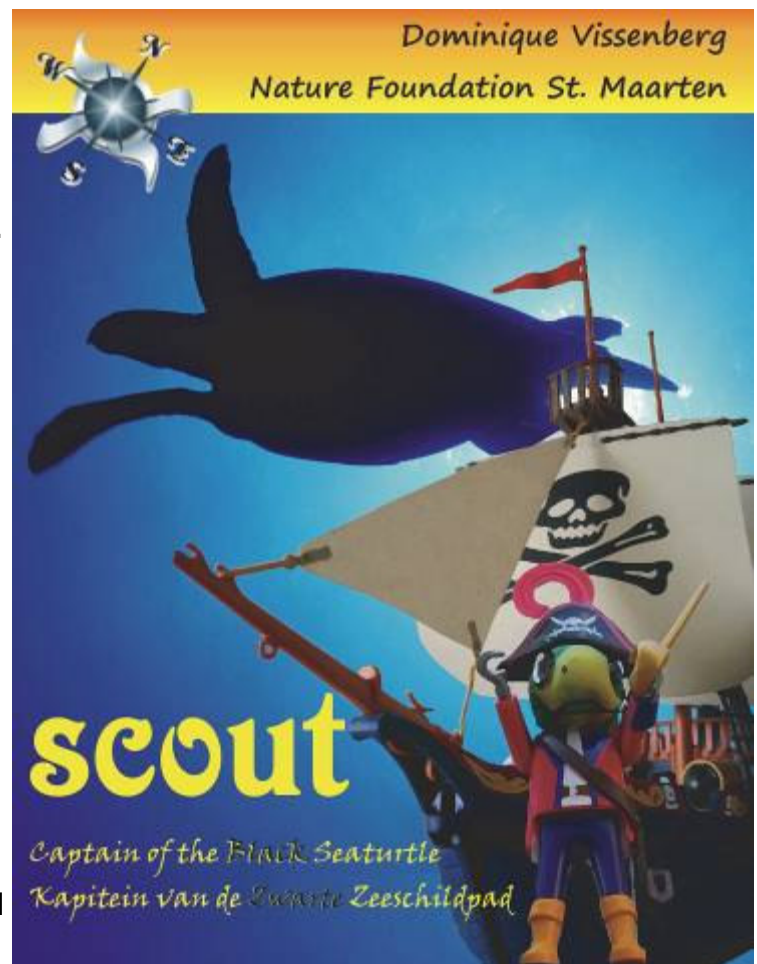
Nature Foundation together with Dominique Vissenberg have produced the manuscript of a children's book with the generous support of the DOEN Fund and DCNA. The production of this story book will teach children in a fun way about: 1) the marine environment; 2) the animals that live there; 3) how they each interact within their habitat; and 4) pollution.

Education is one of the goals Nature Foundation uses to help meet its objective of nature conservation. When the formal education programme started in 2004, the Sea turtle was chosen for its charisma to help introduce Sea turtle conservation awareness. Scout, the Sea turtle and the Foundation's mascot, is present in all the lessons appearing as a different character each time. As the Captain Scout of the Black Turtle story has already been used in the form of lesson plans, this project will complement the education programme. This project fits within the frame work of existing education programme lesson materials, namely the lesson plans with the theme on water that focuses on the marine environment and pollution.

The adventure story book is called "Captain Scout of the Black Sea Turtle" and is appropriate for children ages 7 through 9 (upper cycle 1 and lower cycle 2). The book is written in English and Dutch and has coloured illustrations. The book can be used by teachers and parents and will teach children

about the marine environment and pollution as well as enhance reading skills. The manuscript has been sent off for printing and shipment is expected in early 2009.

Each primary school will get two copies of the book. The Philipsburg Jubilee Library will receive copies as well as the parks on St. Eustatius and Saba for distribution to their schools.



Compliments of the Season



From the Board & Staff of

