

FOUNDATION NEWS



A publication of Nature Foundation St. Maarten

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STICHTING
DOEN



DOEN & DCNA join forces for Parks

The DOEN Foundation recently approved a funding proposal in which it will lend financial support via DCNA to the parks of the Windward Islands for the next two years. These funds will be used to cover operational expenses and projects with the aim of capacity building for nature conservation.

DOEN recognizes the challenges the parks face, challenges stemming primarily from a lack of financial resources. For Nature Foundation the absence of financing mechanisms and government commitment and support continue to be a major challenge.

But discussions with government about subsidy support and the approval of the Marine Park Ordinance will continue and we remain positive about a successful outcome.

Nature Foundation has been a recipient of DOEN support in the past in the form of project funding for the professionalization of the Foundation. And now again, DOEN is showing its commitment to help the parks achieve their goals of nature conservation by partner-shiping with DCNA. Already we are seeing how DOEN's support is paying off and we are thankful!

Coming up...

Research & Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles International Training Course Bonaire 14th—18th October

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Nature Foundation's New ranger

In July we hired Etienne Lake for the position of Marine Park Ranger. Etienne is a VKS officer and enjoys the marine environment and fishing. This is a plus because it helps with building relationship with local fishermen and dive shops.

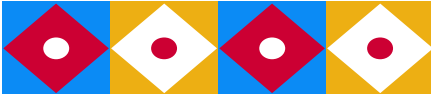
Etienne has so far visited STENAPA St. Eustatius to learn basic park ranger tasks and his next visit will be to STINAPA Bon-

aire. He has completed SCUBA training and attained his radio operator's and boat license. After a long employment at telecommunications company, Tel-Em, he wanted a career change that would include conservation work coupled with education and being in the outdoors, particularly on the ocean. He is married and has two daughters.

Welcome to the team Etienne!

I know I'm going to love this job!





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Dear Reader,

Welcome to another edition of Foundation News.

We've had some good things happen this last quarter; the hiring of a ranger, support from the DOEN Foundation and the acquisition of a workshop, just to mention the 'biggies'. On the following pages you can read more about these and other developments .

In the Foundation News July edition, we mentioned briefly our plans to re-design our logo and that our website is under re-construction. Our aim is to have these projects completed by December. We will keep you abreast as usual but in the meantime invite you to celebrate with us our current achievements.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Beverly Mae Nisbeth, MSc.
Manager

Nature Foundation Finally Gets A Workshop

After years of not having a permanent storage and work space, we can finally boast about our new workshop. Thanks to funding from the DOEN Foundation we were able to acquire a rental unit. The warehouse is conveniently located next to our offices and patrol boat in Cole Bay. We had to invest significantly in the warehouse by erecting a concrete partition and a mezzanine to maximize the total work area. We installed cabinets and closets. The workshop has water and electricity as well. Now we finally have a comfortable and adequate space to carry out park related tasks such

as the making of moorings as well as a safe place to store equipment and other items.



Beach signage

Since 2004 the beach signage project had lain dormant due to lack of funds. But now finally with funds from the Princess Juliana International Airport and DOEN Foundation the project is back on track. The signs are currently in production at Wilderness Graphics in Florida. The signs will inform the community and visitors of the possible presence of nests and what they can do to avoid unintentionally destroying nests. Providing information on turtle nesting activities will lead to increased consciousness and will inform people on how they can contribute to species survival. Our aim is to have 3 signs on Simpsonbay, 2 on Guanabay, 1 on Gibbs Bay and 1 on Great Bay by the end of December.

Sea Turtle Hotline



9229 is the number people can call to report sea turtle sightings, nesting and illegal activity. Our friends at St. Maarten PRIDE also share our concern for sea turtle conservation and together we work to inform beach side residents about the dangers of artificial lights and other threats found on the beaches. United Telecommunications Services (UTS) donated one mobile phone which will be used as the "Turtle Phone". Thank you UTS!



Photo courtesy D. Mc.Gregor—The Today Newspaper

Biodiesel \$\$



It is possible to be double green while driving your diesel vehicle; save \$\$\$ and the planet! This month we decided to fill up the Foundation's truck with biodiesel.

Made from used oil and the by-product good for agriculture and making soap, biodiesel supposedly reduces emissions and puts an ease on your wallet. We saved NAFIs. 12 on a full tank. Over a one-year period that could add up to a savings of NAFIs. 288 (at 2 times monthly) depending on how much gas prices fluctuate.

If nothing else, at least as a nature conservation organization we can show an example of sustainable responsibility by spewing less CO₂ into the air and helping to slow down global warming!

Uniforms for NFS

@fter searching long and hard for affordable and attractive uniforms, we were referred to Ms. Carmen Escobar of Adelyn's Creation via our good colleagues at STENAPA. Thanks guys!

The two-toned blue uniform includes cap, light blue polo and dress shirt with navy short and long trousers and skirt. Our logo is visible on the cap and shirts. Some shirts read 'Manager' on the front while others read Marine Park Authority" on the rear.



NFS staff in new work uniforms (photo courtesy A. Singh—The Daily Herald).

Joining Hands: Mangrove Replanting Project

In a move to widen the channel of the Fresh Pond that over flows into the Great Bay during heavy rainfall and to rebuild the break water bridge, the Department of New Works had to destroy a mangrove patch that lined the pond's edge. Before executing the project, the department consulted with Nature Foundation and St. Maarten PRIDE on possible mitigation plans.

In a joint mangrove re-planting project, the both foundations will plant seedlings at different location in the Simpsonbay Lagoon. The Department of New Works presented us with a cheque of \$3,000 to cover the costs of the project. We expect to start on it early next year with the help of our friends at EPIC.

Nature Foundation and EPIC did mangrove re-planting in the past together with community members at Grand Key in the Simpsonbay Lagoon. Other areas that were replanted are Fresh

Pond and Little Bay Pond after Hurricane Louis in 1995.



Presentation of cheque to Nature and PRIDE Foundation by government officials. Also present were representatives of contracting and consulting engineering companies (photo courtesy A. Singh—The Daily Herald).

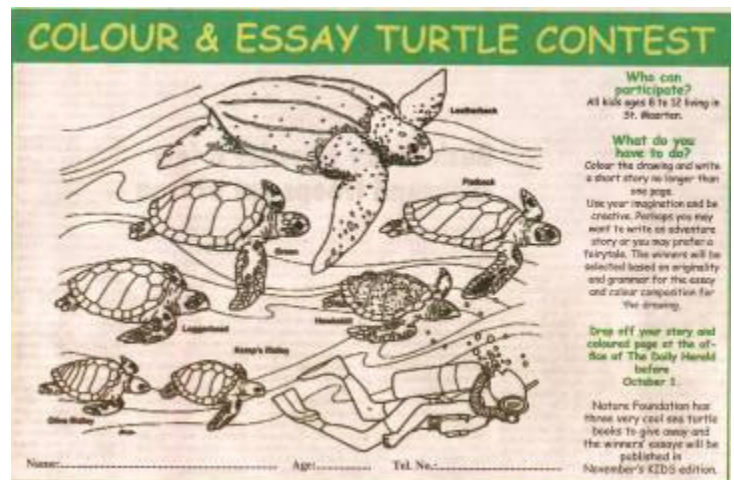
Colour and Essay Contest

April was the start of sea turtle nesting season and as a way to continue appreciation and awareness of these amazing animals, we did a series of articles on these critters in the KIDS Herald. The KIDS Herald is a bi-monthly supplement of the Daily Herald newspaper that features articles on items such as health, animal care, and nature and environment for children.

We have been contributing articles since January of this year. The sea turtle series featured lots of photographs of the three species that visit St. Maarten's beaches as well as facts about nesting, hatchlings, feeding, conservation status and what children can do to help protect sea turtles.

To end the series in a fun way, children ages 8 – 12 have been invited to participate in a colouring and essay contest. Three winners will get a very

cool sea turtle ecology book. The photos will be featured in the KIDS Herald. Even the library has expressed enthusiasm in also show casing the entries and allowing us to do the book presentation on their premises!





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High quality Fruit of the Loom cotton T-shirts

Price: \$15.00
Available in Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL



Book

FREE



Heineken bracelets

Limited edition Heineken bracelets are still available. Show your support for nature protection on St. Maarten. Come and get yours! Only \$2. All proceeds go to conservation on St. Maarten.



THANK YOU!

We wish to acknowledge the following partner and funding organizations for their financial support to Nature Foundation:

- Stichting DOEN
- Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds
- Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)

THANK YOU!

We wish to acknowledge the following companies for their financial support and donations:

- UTS—Chippie
- St. Maarten Harbour Holding Co.
- Princess Juliana International Airport Enterprise