

AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS

Police Station 182333
Emergency 111
Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
Hospital 18221/182371
Landsradio 182210
Post Office 182207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 182288
Winair Office 182362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.
Coastguard NA&A 113
St. Eustatius National parks: Gallows Bay: 318 2884

SABA

Police Station
The Bottom, tel. 4163237
Emergency 111/112
Hospital
The Bottom, tel. 4163288/4163289
Fire Department Airport
Flat Point tel. 4162210
SATEL
The Bottom, tel. 4163211
WINAIR, Airport
Flat Point, tel. 4162255/2713
Taxi Service Airport
Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
The Bottom, tel. 4163311/4163312/4163313
Tourist Office
Windwardside, tel. 4162231
Harbour Office
Fort Bay, tel. 4163294
Saba Marine Park
Fort Bay, tel. 4163295
Nature & Hike Guide
James Johnson
The Bottom, tel. 4163307
Service Club
Saba Lions Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 8:00 p.m. at Eugenius A. Johnson Center.
Coastguard NA&A 113
Red Cross
 General meeting every last Monday, 6 p.m. Eugenius A. Johnson Center.

ANGUILLA

EMERGENCY
Police 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Police Station 497 2333
Hospital 497 2551
Dental clinic 497 2343
Radio Anguilla 497 2218
Tourism Department 497 2759
Crimestoppers 0800 7777777
AIRLINES
American Eagle 497 3501
Winair 497 2748
Liat 497 5000
Air Anguilla 497 2643
Trans Anguilla 497 8690
COURIER SERVICE
DHL 497 3400
Federal Express 497 2719
UPS 497 2239
SERVICE CLUBS
Rotary Club of Anguilla
 Meets at Da Vida every Thursday at 6.00 p.m.
Soroptimist International
 Day Care Centre
 4.30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in each month Tel: 497 3509
Lions Club meets every
 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5.30 p.m. at the Arts and Craft Centre
 Tel: 264 235 1280
Interact Club of Anguilla
 Meets every Friday at 3.15 p.m. at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School
Toastmaster Club meets every
 2nd and 4th Saturday at 6.45 p.m. at La Vue, South Hill

CNSI Director Johan Stapel: 'We're all scientists on Statia'



Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute Director Johan Stapel in wetsuit following one of his many dives for adventure, exploration and discovery beneath the coastal waves of St. Eustatius.

ST. EUSTATIUS--Director of the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI) in St. Eustatius Johan Stapel has a very wide definition of the word science. The enthusiastic diver first graduated in aquatic ecology at the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands. He believes that anybody on Statia with the slightest interest in explaining or discussing the social and natural world is a scientist.

"Science is a fascinating activity," says Stapel. "And on Statia we are using scientific research to make a direct connection between the social and natural worlds. For the last two and half years we have, therefore, promoted our institute as a kind of community centre for scientific research. We are halfway through a five-year Dutch-funded project, and so far we have achieved a lot."

Last year, CNSI supported 45 science projects and hosted 125 graduate and

post-graduate students and scientists; these researchers were aged 18 to 80 years old.

"We have had some great brains looking at our rains, drains and terrains. Medical students have been looking at our island's health to give advice on diabetes, diet and tropical ailments. Microbiologists have analysed our coastal waters looking for serious threats and practical solutions. On land, invasive pests from the animal and plant world have been counted and in some cases, such as the great African snail, counted out through elimination in certain areas. We still have to carry out further scientific assassinations of these slimy creatures in other areas of the island," said Stapel.

CNSI's director admits that there are a lot more challenges on the "Historical Gem" besides snails. "Science is an endless quest to understand purpose and how things tick in this complex yet interconnected

social and natural world. My personal interest is sea grass. These colourful yet endangered signs of life lend support to the protection of our Statia shores. Countless sea creatures, some of which have economic importance, are drawn to them for shelter, to spawn, to forage, or to be swallowed by hungry fish. Diving to watch all this dining is not without charm. Statia's waters are rated among the best sites for underwater sights in the Caribbean." Stapel should know since his scientific study included 15 years of post-graduate diving to explore the world beneath the waves of the Indonesian archipelago.

Where lies the future of CNSI above the waves? "We are a non-profit institute," Stapel explains. "Our building offers possibilities for scientific examination, communication and accommodation. Last year, CNSI realised over 3,000 nights of stay-overs by guests who contribute to Statia's economy; and we hosted over 30 conferences and events.

"We have become part of the knowledge community of Statia. Our role within that community has become one of close involvement. We are playing an advisory role when it comes to many issues that range from education, agriculture, nature, archaeology and public health, to everything that embraces the buried past and sensible economic development of the future."

According to Stapel, Statia is one of the greatest mysteries on Earth. "Science starts with curiosity and questioning, followed by doing research in search for answers and explanation. This explanation is then questioned again by others to evaluate its correctness. The constant process of questioning, answering, explaining and re-evaluation is endless, and behind all this, is a landscape of objective and transparent knowledge, observations and discussion within and among different groups in society. Such is the role of science in society," the passionate scientist said.

"Residents of the Historical Gem are coming to understand this and have a keen interest in explaining the social and natural world that is Golden Rock. In that sense, we are all scientists on Statia."



Dust flying behind the airport sweeper on Concordiaweg.

Dirty and dust on roads spurs health concerns in Concordia

ST. EUSTATIUS--For more than two months residents in Concordia have been complaining to public health officials in St. Eustatius about the unsanitary and dangerous situation they have to endure due to "mountains" of loose dirt that has been left on the roads leading to their houses. The dirt was left behind by the contractor carrying out the underground cabling work for the new solar park of St. Eustatius Utility Company STUCO.

The residents' cries for help have fallen on deaf ears as nothing was being done to rectify the situation. Many of them say they have experienced health issues.

A backhoe driver decided to level the dirt which then covered the entire paved Concordiaweg, but because the volume of dirt was so excessive the paved road started to resemble a dirt road.

Resident Cecilia Merkmán decided to take the law into her own hands and blocked part of the road in front of her gate; this prompted others to call the Police. Officers informed the residents that roadblocks are illegal and the resident was asked to remove the blocks, with the understanding that the Police would contact STUCO's contractor.

Merkmán told the officer she would contact the Prosecutor's Office on Bonaire to try and get some type of resolution concerning the now unofficial dirt road. The Prosecutor promised her he would contact Governor Gerald Berkel about the situation.

The contractor informed the Police he would clear the dirt from the road, but the situation became worse after it had rained, which turned the dirt road into a mud pit.

In the afternoon on Tuesday, March 1, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Airport's sweeper went back and forth on the road, but the machine was unable to remove the dirt as the rain had caused the dirt to stick to the pavement.

A day later, two men were manually sweeping and removing the dirt that was left on the road by the workers, but the layer of dirt was so thick that some of it was left behind on the road.

Resident Ruth Pandt-Leerdam said she had informed STUCO's manager that she would be blocking the road if it was not cleaned. "It is like I am eating, sleeping, bathing and cooking in dirt, as the inside of my house is now also covered in dirt. I have to endure this for over the last two months," according to Pandt-Leerdam. She said she is suffering from illness due to the constant "dirt barrage I have to endure."

Pandt-Leerdam said one of her grandsons, who is allergic to dust as he is having a lung problem, had to be airlifted out on an emergency flight because of the prolonged effect of the road dust.

Island Councilwoman Rechillene Leerdam of Progressive Labour Party (PLP), who also resides on Concordiaweg, said that everyone was becoming sick in their houses from the dirt. Calvin Merkmán, whose parents live in the same road, became so concerned for the health of his parents that he took his truck, placed a water tank in the back and drove back and forth on the road to wet and make the dust settle. He did this for many days, which was welcomed by all residents.

Oswin Merkmán said one of his eyes became infected from the dust. A doctor at Queen Beatrix Medical Centre gave him some drops to help with the issue. He returned to the doctor a day later and he was told he had to travel to French St. Martin for emergency treatment. Ophthalmologist Dr. Jean-Paul Cals informed him that his eyes contained too much dust.

In the meantime the situation has much improved. There is still loose dirt on Concordiaweg, but not in such excessive quantities as before.

Women's network with name change

WILLEMSTAD--The reigns of the Foundation Women's Network Curaçao were handed over to a new board on the eve of International Women's Day.

The transfer took place during a meeting at restaurant Ginger. The organisation also chose a new name: "WE Curaçao."

"It regards ambitious and passionate working women who want more than just exchanging a business card. WE Curaçao wants to inspire these women and assist in creating a comprehensive network that also contributes to their personal development," a release stated.

The theme for the year 2016 is "Courage," focussing on two new projects. The "Class of Experience" is a mentoring programme led by experienced women working in different sectors and "Fierce Talks" involves workshops in which conversation techniques are presented.

The Foundation also holds monthly events, ranging from a lunch to a lecture.

"These programmes and activities contribute to a stronger network for the working woman and the sharing of experiences and knowledge."

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