

Two shark experts visit St. Eustatius

ST. EUSTATIUS--St. Eustatius National Parks Stenapa Foundation welcomed shark experts Jillian Morris and Duncan Brake to the island on Monday. They stay until Wednesday, when they leave to visit Saba for the Conservation Foundation's "Sea and Learn" event.



Jillian Morris

The couple, who live in Bimini in the Bahamas, are both marine biologists and underwater photographers and videographers. Between them they have worked with some of the most well known documentary film makers in the world, including National Geographic, BBC, Discovery and Animal Planet.

Morris is also an educator and founder of shark4kids.com, an organization dedicated to bringing shark education to young people and giving them real shark facts and information, dispelling some of the myths propagated by movies like Jaws and more recently the Sharknado franchise.

During her visit to St. Eustatius Morris will be visiting the island's primary schools and afterschool clubs, giving the children lots of information and answering questions.

"The children on St. Eustatius are always so interested in sharks, even if they are scared of them. Whenever I am in schools giving them the monthly nature lessons, I get questions about sharks, even if the lesson is about birds. Having some real experts come in and be able to share their experiences diving and working with sharks will be fantastic," said Stenapa's education and outreach officer Claire Blair.

Brake is the co-founder and director of oceanicalstars.com an organization of underwater photographers and biologists, which produces underwater film and provides graphics services with the aim of raising awareness and promoting conservation of our seas.

He has filmed all over the world from his home in the Bahamas to the Antarctic and a wide variety of life from elephant seals and sea birds to dolphins as well as sharks.

In addition to visiting schools, Morris and Brake made a presentation at a special, extra edition of Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute's monthly science café on Monday evening.

There will also be a meet-and-greet session at Super Burger tonight, Tuesday, during which members of the public can meet them and ask questions about their work, and, of course, anything they want to know about sharks.



The Curaçao Tourist Bureau (CTB) and Curaçao Extreme Foundation CFX held a press conference in neighbouring Aruba to promote the first edition of "Extreme Curaçao Finals" drag racing event December 3, 4 and 5. In addition to local participants and those of the sister island, there will be competing vehicles from the US, the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and even Bonaire.

State Secretary van Rijn to visit Saba and Bonaire

SABA--State Secretary of Public Health, Welfare and Sports Martin van Rijn will pay a working visit to Saba and Bonaire from today, Tuesday, until Friday.

This is the first visit of the State Secretary to these two islands of the Caribbean Netherlands. St. Eustatius will not be on Van Rijn's itinerary as the Dutch government is currently boycotting visits of government officials to this island. On Van Rijn's schedule are meetings with the Island Governors and the members of the Executive Councils of Saba and Bonaire, as well as visits to various nursing homes and day care centres



Martin van Rijn.

On Saba, the State Secretary will pay a visit to the Centre for Youth and Family and to Child Focus Foundation. He will also visit Benevolent Home nursing home.

On Bonaire, Van Rijn will visit shelter for teenage mothers Rosa di Sharon. He will also meet the district

team for home care at Kas di Kuido and will visit day care centre for the elderly Cocari in Rincon, intra-communal living facility and day care for mentally handicapped FKPD and Youth Care and Family Supervision/CJG.

On his second day in Bonaire, State Secretary Van Rijn will visit small day care centre Villa Antonia, a project of the Centre for Addictions and Psychiatric Care Caribbean Netherlands.

After a visit to the new health insurance office, he will meet young people and youth workers of Jong Bonaire and make a stop at Foundation Forsa.

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