

AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS
 Police Station 182333
 Emergency 111
 Hot Line 108
 Fire Department 120
 Hospital 182211/182371
 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 Crafts Centre Tel: 497 6259
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

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From left: Steve Piontek, Matt Davies and Hannah Madden of St. Eustatius National Parks with Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute Director Johan Stenapa.

Native bees, coral reefs featured in Science Café

ST. EUSTATIUS--The endemic bees of St. Eustatius and safeguarding local coral reefs were the topics of discussion during last week's Science Café, organised by Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI) and St. Eustatius National Parks Stenapa.

Very little is known about Statia's endemic bee *Anthophora eustatiensis*, but that may all change, according to Stenapa's terrestrial manager Hannah Madden. Speaking at the Science Café she described how this flying insect performs a rather clever shimmy dance to gather its pollen.

"Bees play an important role in pollinating flowering plants and are the major type of pollinator in ecosystems that contain flowering plants. But the Statian bee does not always collect its pollen by entering the flower. In some difficult to reach flowers, it gathers pollen out by vibrating in a kind of shimmy dance very much like local Caribbean carnival dancers. It is very, very smart."

Of the eight native species that inhabit the "Historical Gem," the Statian Bee is the least studied in terms of its habitat and way of life. "For example, we do not know if it is a solitary creature or whether it is a colonizer, but we are going to find out," said Madden.

"We have carried out extensive studies to determine the pollinators of our endemic plant, the Statia Morning Glory. Originally, we thought that the carpenter bee was

the main pollinator, having observed it visiting the flowers on numerous occasions. However, we discovered that the carpenter bee was piercing a hole at the base of the flower and stealing nectar. It turns out that the flower is pollinated by a nocturnal hawk moth and the Lesser Antillean hummingbird."

Madden and Stenapa are determined to learn more about local bees. This will not include the well-known honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*) since it was introduced to the island by Europeans in the 1600's. "But we are interested to understand what impact the honey bee has on native species," she noted.

Coral reefs

Coral reefs are a vital asset in the Caribbean. They deliver ecosystem services to tourism and fisheries, as well as protect the shoreline. Steve Piontek of Gem City Consulting GCRMN and Matt Davies from Stenapa told Science Café visitors Statia's reefs have to be assessed and they have already started to do just that.

"The report 'Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs,' edited by GCRMN science coordinator Jeremy Jackson, concluded coral reef monitoring in the wider Caribbean is 'scattered,' disorganized and largely ineffective," said Piontek.

"But on Statia we have already started to collect and record data necessary to better understand regional patterns of change in coral reef into the future. This will help marine rangers to keep a watchful

eye on these vital assets and take all the right measures where necessary."

Some 20 underwater sites have been selected around the coastal waters of the island to be monitored on an annual basis. Each site contains five 30 metre long by two metre wide transects and lies between 8-15 metres deep. Volunteer divers have already studied four of these sites.

"Matt Davies carries out a fish count that involves identifying up to 100 species. For each site we are monitoring the density and size of all fish. We are particularly interested in the current state of snapper, parrot fish and grouper. We are also on a keen lookout for that invasive killer lionfish."

"Each site is photographed to monitor benthic cover for evidence of coral disease and these images are likewise used to determine the abundance of two key groups of macro-invertebrates: the sea urchins and sea cucumbers."

Water quality is also checked through the use of "secchi" discs. These devices provide a reasonable guide to the presence of plankton and algae.

Davies said the diving team was doing a great job. "We are particularly interested in the density of young corals that are likely to contribute to the next generation of adult corals. The value of our coral reefs to Statia and surrounding islands may be immeasurable but that does not stop us from making a very good estimate of the health and wealth of our sea assets."