



## **BONHATA PRESS RELEASE**

### **Congratulations to the BONHATA 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award Recipients**

BONHATA recently celebrated its 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Awards Event at the Plaza Fontana located at Harbour Village Beach Club. In celebration of the International Year of the Reef the dress code was “Colours of the Ocean” and our guest Speaker was Mr. George Buckley, Assistant Director of Environmental Management Programs at DCE/Harvard University.

Further to the success of last year, we continued with the “no categories” policy for the awards. Instead, the membership was asked to nominate a company or individual who deserved recognition for the contribution they had made to the Tourism Industry of Bonaire. The recipients were (in order of receiving the awards):

**Mr. Jerry Ligon, of Bonaire Dive & Adventure**, for his naturalist programmes that bring repeat visitors year after year and which has also generated wonderful PR for the island in publications throughout the world.

**Antillean Wine Company**, for delivering fine wines throughout the island and their consistently good service for many years and also for their very keen support of various community activities – they are always willing to help where ever they can.

**Max Van Dortmond, Bonaire Affair**, his magazine is unique and has stood the test of time. He loves Bonaire and every aspect of the magazine is developed to support Bonaire’s special place in the world and her nature, history and culture.

**Bart Snelders, Wannadive**, who after so many years of being a member of BONHATA, has finally decided to become a board member! His comments are more valuable when bringing it straight and personal to the board, his knowledge of Bonaire and the diving community will be very much appreciated.

**Deepak Daryanani**, for his beautiful new shopping center on Kaya Gobernador N. Debrot – it is a colorful low rise project and very attractive to the eye.

**Junny Janga**, for being an incredibly hard working individual! Not only for his endless dedication and efforts to make his operation profitable and competitive again but also for his involvement with the Tene Boneiru Limpi campaign.

**TELBO**, for all of their innovations this year (Surf-IT, ADSL, Digital TV), and also for increasing convenience to our tourists

**Rum Runners Restaurant & Team**, for their continued support of the Bonaire culinary team and their dedication to cause! They have been the driving force behind the team for 5 years. Danki Floris and Isidoor (and Nanny)!

**Kontiki Beach Bonaire & Restaurant**, Martin and Miriam and their staff are doing a great job keeping our guests very happy, even though they are going through great changes

and challenges, building of new rooms and renovating the old, their guests are their focus, this will be the reason why many more guests will find their way to Kontiki.

**Jack Chalk/Captain Don's Habitat**, Habitat is still the only resort that not only works with NGO's but actively does something on their property to protect the environment, such as sewage treatment. To boot leave it to Habitat to come up with events that sparks public attention such as bringing wounded warriors to Bonaire. The promotional values of such events are a benefit to the entire island

**Mama Smile (Poppy)**, for the best smile and the dedication she has shown towards the Tourism Awareness Project this last year. She is going a great job and making us all smile!

A special award was also presented to **STINAPA** for the great job they have been doing over the years in protecting the Bonaire reefs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

We would also like to thank all of the 2006 Award Winners who helped in the presentation of the 2007 Awards:

Annette van Rooijen, Match Consultancy, BV  
Maribell De Wolff, Bonaire Tours & Vacations  
Steve Littman, Littman's Jewellers  
Orphaline Saleh, Maduro & Curiel's Bank (Bonaire) N.V.  
Marcel Olij, Den Laman Apartments  
Elvis Martinus, Bonaire Windsurfing Place  
Jenmarie Coffie, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino  
Sara Matera, Divi Flamingo Beach Resort  
Orlando Francisca, Bonaire Motorcycle Shop  
Marisela Croes, Rocargo Services, N.V.

The evening is also a fund raising event and proceeds from this year's raffle are to go 50% SGB Culinary Team (SBO level) to compete in an ABC Islands culinary competition in Aruba and 50% to the professional, adult version – the Bonaire Culinary Team to compete in the Annual CHA Taste of the Caribbean (venue TBD). This year we raised Naf 4,700 (so Naf 2,350 each)

BONHATA would like to sincerely thank all of the raffle sponsors and all who attended to make this evening such a success!