



St Barth Essentiel

Keep St-Barth Green, Keep St-Barth Essentiel

BETTER REPRESENTATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION

OUR PRESIDENT AT THE CESC



A prefectural ruling on May 22, 2013 meant that our president H el ene Bernier became a member of the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (CESC) of Saint Barth el emy. She represents the island's environmental protection organizations, as agreed by the various associations that operate in this domain. The CESC is one of the four institutions of the Collectivity (with the territorial council, the president of the territorial council, and the executive council), and comprises 15 members named for five-year terms. The members are representatives of various associations and

organizations that create the economic, social and cultural life of Saint-Barth el emy.

The CESC acts in an advisory capacity to the territorial council on certain issues that concern the island, and can offer advice on other subjects. The installation of the CESC was held at the Collectivity on June 20, pretty much behind closed doors. Thierry Balzame, professional business representative, was elected president of the CESC. The candidature of our president for the post of finance did not bear fruit, as it went to Jackson Questel.

A WORD FROM HELENE BERNIER

"Our association applied for the seat on the council in order to better share its point of view and more generally promote an awareness of environmental protection. Our hope is to be able to influence the decision-making process.

I would also like to say that I was very pleased with the informal meeting that took place prior to the official installation of the CESC, as much as I was disappointed with that event itself. It was actually acknowledged that the board was "selected" before the meeting by the former members of the CESC, without consulting the new ones. We were then asked to vote for the new board without any possibility of naming other potential candidates, who might have been perceived as opposition, which is regrettable in such an advisory assembly. In the future, I certainly hope there will be more democratic means employed in the treatment of dossiers and that all of the council members will be consulted and informed in the same manner.

I also hope that absence of environmental protection in the list of priorities (see the Journal de Saint-Barth N 1033) set by the new president of the CESC, perhaps without consulting all of the members, is just a simple omission. I cannot believe that the new CESC of Saint Barth el emy, as well as the Overseas Minister, made the effort to allot a seat on the CESC for a representative of the environmental protection associations, and that the national institution called "The Economic, Social, and Environmental Council," could think that environmental protection is not a priority! Yet it is true that the former CESC gave a negative opinion on joining the Kyoto treaty on the pretext that such an action "would be out of proportion for Collectivity, in terms of statistics, follow-up, measures etc."

My challenge at the beginning of this term? To modify opinions within the CESC itself, and make everyone understand that the protection of our environment cannot be sacrificed on the economic altar of the island!"

CESC MEMBERS

COLLÈGE ÉCONOMIQUE

- ▣ Thierry Balzame, professions lib erales (Pr esident)
- ▣ Didier Gr eaux, association des Commer ants
- ▣ Eric Plasse, Syndicat Inter professionnel du B atiment
- ▣ Pascale Minarro, association des H otels et villas (Secr etaire)
- ▣ Xavier Pign et, association des Restaurateurs

- ▣ Bertrand Labouerie, Chambre Economique Multiprofessionnelle
- ▣ Antoine Querrard, Comit e de Liaison Economique (1er VP)

COLLÈGE SOCIAL ET CULTUREL

- ▣ Rudi Laplace, Ajoie
- ▣ H el ene Bernier, association de protection de l'environnement
- ▣ Denis Dufau, Asbas

- ▣ Lucien Finaud, association des retrait es
- ▣ Jackson Questel, associations de quartier (Questeur)

PERSONNALIT ES QUALIFI ES

- ▣ Jean Pierre Ballagny, culture
- ▣ Christian Audebert, m tiers de la mer
- ▣ Pierre Marie Majorel,  conomie (2  VP)

BETTER REPRESENTATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION

Michel Chevaly au CA de l'Agence de l'environnement



Michel Chevaly has been a member of our association since 2011. Retired from the private sector and honorary member of the Navy and IHEDN auditor, he directed numerous commercial businesses in various African countries. Michel took an active part in our inventory project and is currently coordination a project for a botany trail in Colombier, which in principle has been approved by the Collectivity.

One can only believe that the sincere appeal made to the president the Collectivity was heard. The deliberation 2013-027 CT made on March 15, 2013 concerning the designation of the members of the board for the Territorial Environmental Agency was annulled and a new deliberation integrating our representative onto the board was adopted on May 3. We made this appeal as we considered that the conditions under which the board members were named the first time did not respect the criteria as defined by the territorial council itself. As a result, Michel Chevaly now represents

St Barth Essentiel on the board of the Territorial Environmental Agency, which was officially created last May 20 during an installation ceremony. Benoit Chauvin was named president of the agency, and Franciane Lequelléc, former director of the Réserve Naturelle de Saint-Barthélemy, was named as director. Michel was not appointed to the board of the agency.

The board of the Territorial Environmental Agency comprises 12 members : six are also members of the Territorial Council, three are qualified persons, one personnel representative, and two representatives of the island's environmental protection associations. The territorial council members are appointed for the length of their term; the other are named for 3 years. The new agency was created to monitor the environmental policy as established by the territorial council. The agency has 5 major objectives :

- 1) Environmental awareness and improved knowledge about natural sites and species.
- 2) Understanding of anthropological and natural constraints, the management and usage of natural sites, in particular the marine parks; protection and surveillance of said sites; control of invasive and harmful species; management of marine resources; Advice on requests for land-clearing permits;
- 3) Environmental awareness, education, and promotion through pedagogical activities and appreciation;
- 4) Management of public and private sites in keeping with the goals of the Agency;
- 5) Promotion and development of energy efficiency and new sustainable energy sources.

We hope that our participation in making such decisions will lead to a better consideration of environmental protection.

A WORD FROM MICHEL CHEVALY

The second board meeting for the Environmental Agency took place on June 17. We voted on the budget for the agency, with approximately 280,000 euros for the second half of 2013. As this was the first such vote, we decided to trust the managers of the agency for the establishment and execution of the budget. We will submit a financial report at the end of 2013.

During that meeting, we also examined the question of how to determine the criteria that will allow for an evaluation of the status of the animal and vegetal species of Saint Barthélemy, with an eye toward establishing a list of protected species. On this subject, I requested that the agency call upon the experience of our association, and especially that of botanist Claude Sastre concerning vegetal species. We have just about completed our flora inventory, giving us a pretty precise idea of the status of the vegetal species on the island. The principle of collaboration was accepted; it remains to work out the details. In coordination with the president, we invited the members of the board as well as the director of the agency to visit herbarium to understand the scope of the inventory we have already accomplished.

I would like to also inform our members that the agency's first intervention in the field concerned an illegal clearing of land, as reported by our president Hélène Bernier. As the owner has been absent, this has not been resolved, but we are pleased to note the willingness of the agency to note such infractions. That also shed a light on the impossible situation that the agency staff confronts in pressing charges in the case of an infraction. That would require modifying an article in the Environmental Code. As far as the means at my disposal as a member of the agency's board, I will work toward making that modification happen as soon as possible.

LITERARY WORKS



Co-written by Hélène Bernier, Claude Sastre, and Michel Magras, the book "Useful Plants of Saint Barthélemy," comprises the plants used in the past by residents as part of the island's daily existence. The first book published by the association, it is also one of the first projects based on the floral inventory of Saint Barthélemy that we started in 2011.

Sold for 25 euros, proceeds from the book help the association finance its activities. If you do not yet have this volume in your library, you can order via email : sbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr

Exploring the geology of the island



On May 22-17, we hosted Yves Mazabraud, PhD in Geology at the University of the Antilles, where he did research at the Laboratory for Research in Geosciences and Energies (LARGE). His very instructive visit included field trips to explore the island's geology, and a lecture titled "Geological History of Saint-Barthélemy, The Earth's Risks and Resources. The first field trip was with a ninth grade class on the north side of Anse des Cayes, where students could observe and analyze volcanic rocks and sediments as well as fossils. They were asked to reflect on an analysis of the landscapes, their modification by erosive agents such as rain and surf, as well as by human activities. They also discovered the principle called "actualism" to reconstitute the paleoenvironment of the deposits of sedimentary rocks and volcanic sediment by analyzing their surfaces and fossils on the one hand, and actual landscape and animals on the other, allowing the students to learn from local examples.

A Sunday field trip reserved for members of the association took place along the trail to Colombier, with an analysis of the landscape and coast, as well as the geological relief (the nature of the rocks and faults). This was also the occasion to go back in time 43 million years to imagine the formation and evolution of Saint Barthélemy, based on an analysis of the volcanic rocks found along the trail and their deformations (hydrothermal, faults).

The lecture on Saturday, May 26 drew a large crowd to the meeting room at the Capitainerie. The geological history of the island was described—from the creation of the Caribbean tectonic plate to the present time—as well as the origins of



the various rocks that form Saint-Barthélemy. An accent was placed on the immediate applications of research done by geologists in terms of sustainable development: prevention of natural risks, the possibility of renewable energies, the importance of our natural heritage and landscapes. To close, Mazabraud presented a current research project that concerns Saint-Barthélemy and the northern Lesser Antilles. A project that has two phases: the first about the earth has already started and is a study of the geology of the islands of the Anguillan bank (age of the rocks, the paleoenvironments,



the faults and their activity). The second phases will take place at sea as part of the oceanographic mission, ANTITHESIS, planned for December 2013. This project comprises scientists from the Antilles, France, Germany, Spain, and the United States to help redefine the geological history of the northern arc of the Antilles; with acoustic and thermal of the subduction zone around Saint Barthélemy in order to increase knowledge relating to large earthquakes and tsunamis.

A QUICK LOOK AT THE GEOLOGICAL FORMATION OF THE ISLAND

Like Saint Martin and Anguilla, Saint Barthélemy is above all a volcanic island. The three islands from the visible part of the "Anguilla Bank," which in itself is a portion of the volcanic arc called the "Arc Ancien," which runs from the Virgin Islands to Martinique.

Volcanic activity took place here over a period of four million years (from 39 to 43 million years ago), when one can picture at least three volcanic cones erupting Saint Barthélemy, and although they are not very high in altitude, they spewed volcanic debris in the nearby lagoons to form volcano-sedimentary rocks (tuffs). At the same time, calcareous rocks formed in the lagoons. As a result, Saint Barthélemy is essentially formed of layers of limestone and volcanic sediment.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The 30th edition of the European Heritage Days will be held on September 13-15 throughout all of France. This 30th edition also marks the 100 years of the 1913 law that initiated the classification of historic monuments and the inscription of notable buildings on a list of such monuments, as well as the beginning of a general inventory of architectural heritage.

We have decided to take part in this event by highlighting the seven official historic monuments in Saint Barthélemy: The Swedish battlement at Fort Gustav, the former town hall (also called The Governor's House) the Swedish bell tower, the Catholic Church in Gustavia, the rectory in Gustavia, the bell tower in Lorient, and the Brigantin (Dinzey House).

We are currently working on a program of activities that comprises :

- Guided visits of historic monuments;
- A conference intended to increase awareness of the historic buildings in Saint Barthélemy and architectural heritage in general.

NOUVELLE SECRETARY GENERAL

During our general assembly, we noted that the support of our volunteers was no longer enough to run and develop our activities, and that we needed to hire a permanent staff person.

As a result, we are pleased to announce that as of Monday, June 17, Pierrette Guiraute has been hired as secretary general of our association, for an initial period of six months. A former editor-in-chief of the Journal de Saint Barth, she is well acquainted with local problems and has a large expertise in the area of communication. In addition to her administrative tasks, she will help the president with her activities and ensure the progress of all activities launched by association. You can contact Pierrette by email at stbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr or by telephone at 0690 63 60 47 (mornings).

ACTION!

Protection of the environnement

CLEARING CONTINUES IN GRAND CUL DE SAC

In spite of warnings sent to a construction and public works company that filled in part of the mangrove after clearing the zone in order to enlarge its storage area, unauthorized clearing continues around the salt pond in Grand Cul de Sac. We have alerted the Territorial Environmental Agency as well as urban planning service of the Collectivity and the gendarmes : they quickly went to see the site, but the fact that the owner of the company is not on the island, nothing could be done immediately. We are still hopeful that there will still be action taken against the guilty party. Especially as the vice public prosecutor at the court in Saint-Martin has not hidden his intentions to bring legal action against these infractions to the Environmental Code of Saint-Barthélemy!

We are also pleased that the first legal action taken against infractions of the Urbanism Code of Saint Barthélemy came before the court in June. The results of the deliberation will be known as of October.



ROADS IN A GREEN ZONE? YES, IT'S POSSIBLE!

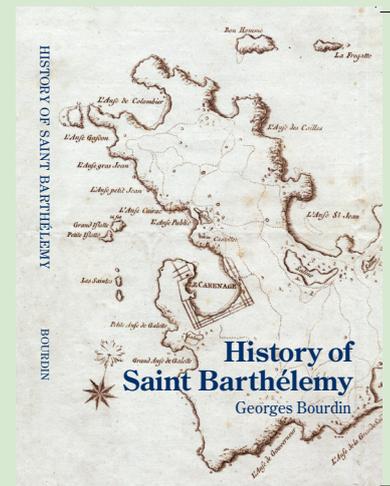
In an urbanism case that is currently the subject of a judicial debate, we had the opportunity to note that, in keeping with article 1-2 in Chapter D of the regulations for the island's urbanism, it is possible to create a road in a green zone! Simple authorization from the executive council is all it takes. The text, amended in context to its original version that allowed for this possibility only to provide

access to land already built on or classified as open for building is part of the urbanism code, actually allows all owners of a tract of buildable land access via a green zone if access is not permitted by the closest neighbors.

This is the case in the dossier where we were asked to intervene: since the closest neighbors refused to grant an easement, the owner of this piece of land that became buildable once the new urban planning map went into effect, turned to Collectivity, which gave him authorization to put a road through a green zone in order to get to his land, creating a huge scar across the hillside. We ask ourselves if it was not possible to encourage the owner to find an easement through a zone where building is allowed, rather than allow this penetration into a green zone? Over and above the judicial debate that will take place in court, what we regret the most in this matter is the position of the Collectivity, which does not take much interest in protecting the island's green zones. This was obvious in the discussion that took place last May at the Territorial Council in terms of a deliberation that created a procedure of authorization for clearing land and cutting down of trees. President Bruno Magras, president of the urbanism commission Karine Miot, and Cécile Tiberghien, a member of the urbanism commission, were all vocal in rejecting the propositions that came from the environmental commission. At the end of the day, the dossier was tabled indefinitely and the zones and regulations for land clearing have not yet been adopted, leaving the door open for everyone to do anything they want!

Written in the late 1970s by French illustrator/author Georges Bourdin, who moved to the island after WWII, "The History Of Saint Barthélemy" traces the island's history from the days of its first inhabitants as far back as 1100 through the present time.

Published in the late 70s at the initiative of Porter Henry, the book sold out quickly and was never republished till recently. The association is the exclusive distributor of the book on the island, and thanks to the generosity of von Mueffling, the proceeds from its sale go entirely to St Barth Essentiel. English versions are still available. If you would like to purchase a copy (20 euros), please send an email to : stbarthessentiel@yahoo.fr



FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

Recent Activities For The Heritage Club



Visit of the traditionnal windward cottage, Toiny Hotel

Continuing their exploration of traditional professionals, the students who belong to the Heritage Club, created in February 2013 in partnership with the junior high school, met for a fourth field trip on the theme of traditional architecture. Following a visit to the historic Swedish buildings in Gustavia -the Dinzey House and the

Wall House-, the students went to Toiny where they visited the traditional windward cottage with the Toiny Hotel renovated about 15 years ago. In the 18th century, these little habitations with their thick stones walls covered with whitewash flourished on the windward side of the island. To protect them from hurricanes, these

A la halle aux poissons à la découverte des métiers de la pêche.

houses were built around a tree, generally a gaiac, which anchored the house to the ground. The club made its most recent outing on Saturday, June 15. This time they explored the professions related to fishing, an activity practiced by the Saint Barth natives since they first arrived on the island. To

get an insider's view of the particularities of fishing in St Barthélemy, they met with Pedro at the fish market in Gustavia. The students are currently working on a diorama concerning the traditional professions in Saint Barthélemy. This will be presented during the European Heritage Days on September 13-15.

Sunday June 23th : Paella party at Petit Cul de Sac

