



# Réserve Naturelle de St Barthélemy

[www.reservenaturellestbarth.com](http://www.reservenaturellestbarth.com)

[managernaturestbarth@gmail.com](mailto:managernaturestbarth@gmail.com) - 0590278818 - 0690317073



January 2012

Happy new year!



Jojo the grouper from Petit Jean asks the man to remain reasonable...

*Year 2012 starts and it looks promising. The program of protection of Iguana Delicatissima takes a regional dimension and we participate actively in its animation due to the success on St Barth and to the mobilization of the population. A similar program of protection of the marine turtles is going to be set up at the beginning of the summer to study and make discover in particular the green turtles of Colombier. Year 2012 is also an electoral year and the Nature Reserve hopes that the project of territorial public institution which will allow a more global management of the natural areas and the biodiversity of St Barth will be born after the elections. Let us remind that the Nature Reserve is apolitical and that its management is insured by a non profit organization with a democratic functioning. The team of the Nature Reserve makes the maximum with its means to answer 7 days a week, 365 days a year in all the necessities of management also out of the Nature Reserve's limits.*



Iguana in Flamands.

*The rangers of the Nature Reserve can achieve their missions thanks to all the citizens from St Barth and visitors who participate actively in the protection of our environment by reporting them their observations. But they sometimes collide with unexpected and surprising adversities and it is this wilderness, this island so small but so beautiful, this rock which seduces people of whole world, which cashes the knocks docilely. To us all to make these very small efforts to respect the simple rules which protect St Barth, it is our only insurance of a great future.*



Life begins for this baby turtle one night of december in Grand Cul de Sac....

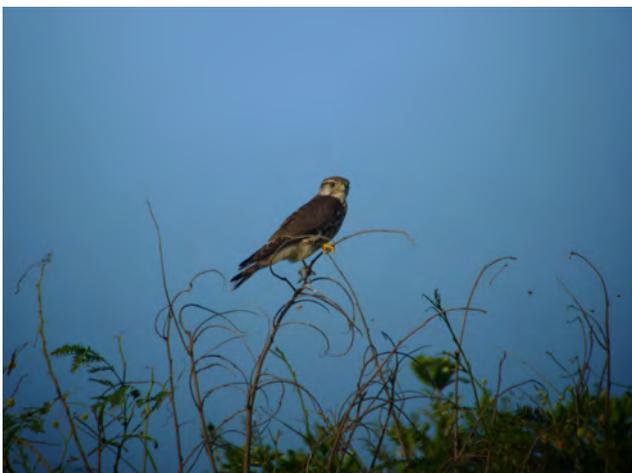
## *The treasure of seaweeds*



Des civelles à St Barth, merci les sargasses !

*Loulou Magras from Corossol was interested in what he could indeed have there in these famous sargassum, these seaweeds which hide numerous young species (tortoises, fishes, shellfishes) and transport in particular vegetable seeds (grapes the seaside, the mangroves). Miracle! He discovers some alevins of eels better known in Europe under the name of Elvers. These alevins migrate from Sargasso Sea to the European coast where they go swim up the rivers to settle down finally in ponds, puddles, ditches. Eels do then the inverse route at the end of ten years at the approach of their sexual maturity, they get down again the same rivers and return to Sargasso Sea by the depths of the ocean to reproduce there. This year, the currents decided to bring down these seaweeds towards the Antilles and it is in Corossol that these alevins were discovered. But why so much emotion? Elvers are very popular in Europe where they constitute a delicious meal. It needs 2900 alevins to be one kilo which costs between 200 and 1000 euro! Of course, fishing is very supervised in Europe because elvers are fragile and threatened, but it is a beautiful Christmas present for this resident of St Barth.*

## *Merlin falcon*



*The ornithologist Gilles Leblond observed for the first time a merlin falcon in St Barth. This falcon is strictly protected on the French territory, it feeds on small birds, from insects to small mammals. It is the compact bird of prey which hunts from a hide, perched on a cliff or a tree, it dashes shaves clod to capture its preys which are set by surprise.*

## *Emergence of hawksbill turtles*



Sun sets, time to start life for these babies...

*The rangers were able to observe an emergence of hawksbill turtles on one of the small beaches of Grand Cul de Sac. It is a fascinating show to see these small marine reptiles dashing to the sea and disappearing as quickly as possible to avoid the numerous predators. This nest contained 157 eggs and 138 were able to leave joining the sea. On 1000 small turtles, only one will become an adult and will come back nesting on the same beach... The marine turtles are particularly threatened all over the world and protecting beaches is essential for the survival of these species. It is the second emergence in month in the lagoon of Grand Cul de Sac after the one in Guanahani in November.*



Our rangers, David Lédée and Karl Questel with Clémence

## Wreck in Fourchue



Catamaran « Colibri » in Fourchue...

*A 40 foot Privilege catamaran ran aground in Fourchue in the evening of December 21st with 8 persons on board. Moored on a buoy of the Nature Reserve, the mooring broke at about 7:15 pm and « Colibri » ran aground on the rocky beach immediately after. The Nature reserve received a call from the CROSSAG (rescue center) December 22nd at 6:20 am and rangers came on-site at about 7:00 am of the morning. Dutch Coast Guards had already evacuated during night several passengers described as customers of this boat and the owner tried to save the catamaran. The owner delares the Nature Reserve responsible for this grounding, she lost everything because this catamaran was her house and everything she had.*

*The mooring of the Nature Reserve effectively broke to its base but it is the surprising lightness of the "captain" which is in question. Because this December 21st, while the professionals stayed alongside the dock, the « Colibri » went at sea to Fourchue despite of the yellow attentiveness and the winds announced in 55 kph with gusts at 90km / hour. Unregistered at the Nature Reserve office despite of its commercial activity, the catamaran moors on a buoy of Fourchue without putting a security line as recommended. After small research on the Internet, it seems that this boat made a commercial activity promoted by a web site and "flyers" with as destinations the Nature Reserves of St Barth and St Martin. Now, this activity is subjected to fees in these reserves and fact of declaring itself allows among others to acquaint with the regulations.*

- *The mooring balls are limited to 25 ton boats. The previous clearance of the Port of Gustavia shows that « Colibri » had been declared as a private boat with two persons on board for a 25 ton gross tonnage. Or in the evening of December 21st, there were 8 persons on board, luggages and supplies, it was then too heavy.*

- *Mooring balls are limited to winds of 55km / hour. December 21st was a yellow warning, the wind exceeds widely this limit. The morning of December 22nd, the rangers did cross a white and rough sea ...*
- *Using mooring balls is not an obligation, there are anchoring areas in Fourchue and Colombier.*
- *Using a mooring ball in Fourchue, Colombier or on a dive site is under the captain's responsibility. The 2 euros fee is due for customers of commercial companies for the visit of the Nature Reserve and not for the mooring.*

*The owner of the boat tried to save her catamaran but it was too much damaged to take it back to the sea. Besides, the bad weather prevented an immediate action. She then did abandon her ship having skinned it to save a maximum of things. The wreck in the Nature Reserve and all the waste which go with are staying ... Saint Barthélemy's Community instructed the owner to remove this wreck.*

*Every storm knows its wrecks, the team of the Nature Reserve and the professionals of the sea met during this one are sad to see a family losing everything in a few minutes. The sea is dangerous and it is useless to take risks. Such a weather report required a particular attentiveness and a good experience.*

## *Management training*

*The director Franciane Le Quellec and the chief ranger Julien Le Quellec participated in a training for administrators of protected areas in Guadeloupe. The objective of this regional training was to approach all the themes useful as the communication, the management of the teams, the dialogue with the users and the communities. It also was the opportunity to exchange and to share with the other administrators. Haiti, St Martin, St Maarten, St Eustatius, Bonaire, Martinique, Petite Terre, Guadeloupe and Guyane were present. A week rich in exchanges of ideas financed by the CAR-SPAW and led by the CAMPAM, caribbean association of marine protected areas.*



**Julien Le Quellec introduces St Barth.**

## *Whales are coming*



*The first whales arrive in St Barth's waters, the first observations were reported on January 6th and 7th 2012. If you are lucky to observe whales, call the Nature Reserve on the cell phone to give their number, their position and their direction. Your data allow their protection. Thanks to the gardener Gary and to the crew of the Motor Yacht "JO » which diverted and reports us observations of whales and dolphins around St Barth.*



A whale west of Sugar Loaf on January 7th. Photo : Remo Mayer, first officer of motor yacht « Jo »

*Girls, you gonna love it...*



*Ammotrechella Beatriceae*, Karl's discovery...

*Karl Questel, ranger of the Nature Reserve and enthusiast of the nature discovered a new sort of endemic Solifuge to St Barthélemy. This arachnid was officially described in an international scientific journal, what officializes its existence and Karl's paternity. Congratulations to him and welcome to Ammotrechella Beatriceae!*

*Join us on Facebook  
Réserve Naturelle St Barth*

**Thanks to all the volunteers who are calling the Réserve Naturelle,  
They are our local observation network !**

**Emergency cell: 0690 31 70 73**