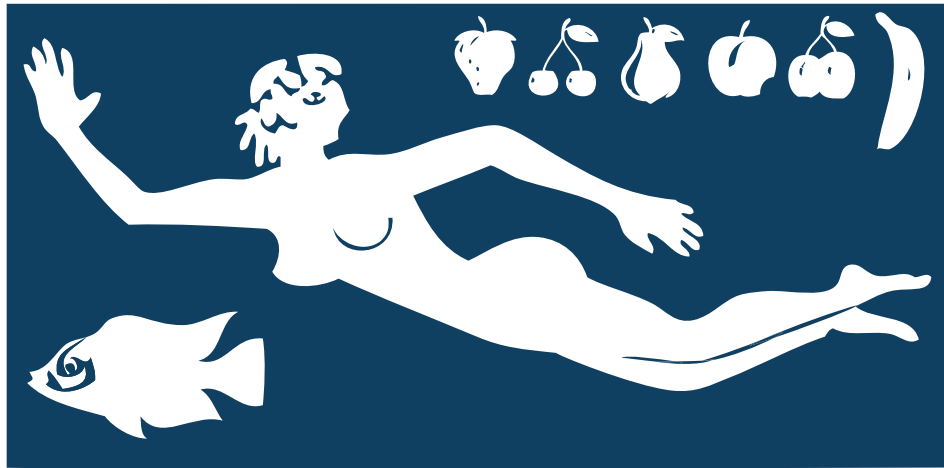


Association Overview



**LES FRUITS
DE MER**

Our Mission

Les Fruits de Mer is a non-profit association providing education about the nature, heritage and culture of the island of St. Martin.

Our History

The founders of Les Fruits de Mer spent several years of providing education about local wildlife in St. Martin. They published two editions of a guide to the wildlife of the island, visited schools and held informal events. The Les Fruits de Mer association was created in July 2013 to support and expand these activities to reach more people, especially students and residents of St. Martin.

For its first few years, the association focused on events that promoted nature, like their Migratory Bird Festival and Endemic Animal Festival, both held annually. The association also published articles and ebooks, and created activities about nature.

In 2016, the association opened Amuseum Naturalis, the island's first nature museum, in Grand Case. The Amuseum became the association's primary channel for nature education. After Hurricane Irma in 2017, the Amuseum was relocated to the historic Old House in French Quarter. Since then, the Amuseum has expanded to include exhibits about heritage, history, culture, and local poetry in addition to nature.

In 2020, the Amuseum was closed temporarily during lockdown during the pandemic, and schools were disrupted. Many students did not have internet connectivity or appropriate devices for remote learning. Les Fruits de Mer spent this time developing books, to make local learning more accessible to all. Over the following years, the association developed and published dozens of books about local subjects. It has created books for all ages, from young children to adults.

Today, the association is working towards a goal of giving a book to every child on the island every year they are in school. Amuseum Naturalis hosts school visits and events, and welcomes the public every day. New exhibits are added regularly. Though it remains focused on St. Martin, the association publishes all its work online for free.



Our Members

Les Fruits de Mer has a diverse international membership. We have averaged 42 members over the last five years. We are also aided in our activity by non-member volunteers. We make our educational materials available online so they can be accessed for free by people anywhere in the world. Our events and museum are based on the island of St. Martin.

Our Values

Les Fruits de Mer seeks to document and share the unique natural and cultural heritage of the island of St. Martin and the Caribbean. The association works with the community to preserve local knowledge and make it available in a variety of ways. We believe this knowledge is important to St. Martin culture. The association is independent, secular and apolitical.

The Community We Serve

Les Fruits de Mer aims to serve the broadest population without discrimination. We make everything we do available for free, including downloads of books and films, events, and admission and class visits to the Amuseum. Our highest priorities are school-aged children, and residents of St. Martin in general. We also impact visitors to the island and a worldwide public.

Focus Areas

St. Martin and Caribbean nature
St. Martin and Caribbean heritage
St. Martin and Caribbean history
St. Martin and Caribbean culture
St. Martin and Caribbean arts

Methods

Books
Museum (Amuseum Naturalis)
Websites and digital media
Weekly newspaper articles
Events
Documentary films

Our Team

Les Fruits de Mer has been an all-volunteer organization since it began. The association is open to change in order to grow.

Funding

The association is currently financially supported by subventions, membership dues, donations and sponsorships. We use volunteering and technology to create and distribute our educational products at a very low cost. This allows us to reach many people at a low cost, while providing our services to the public for free.

Communication

The Les Fruits de Mer association communicates via its website and individual project websites, through social media, via traditional media and in person at Amuseum Naturalis. We try our best to meet the people where they are, in person and online.



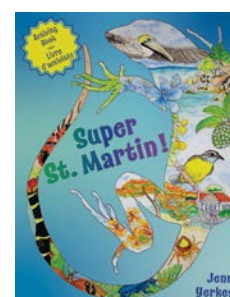
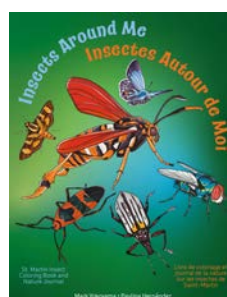
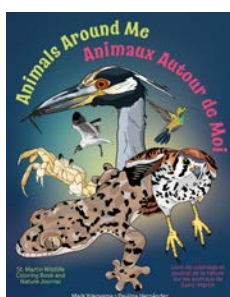
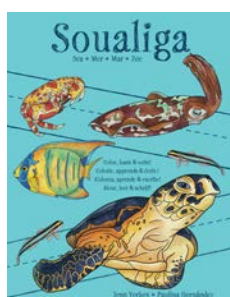
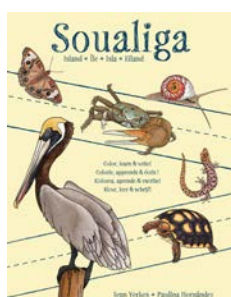
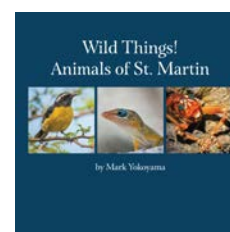
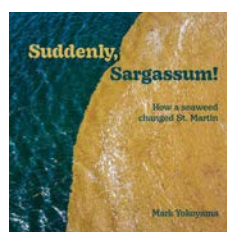
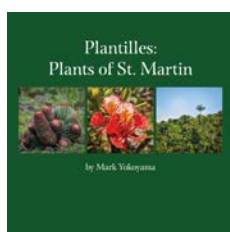
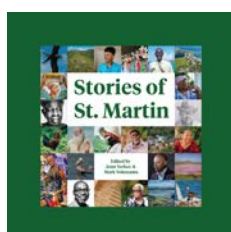
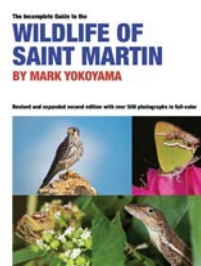
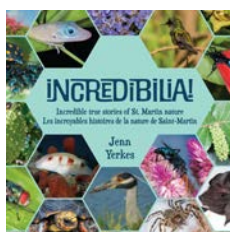
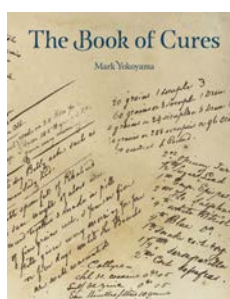
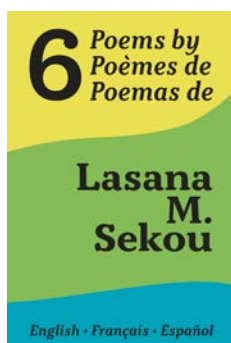
Projects

Books for Students and Schools

Les Fruits de Mer is currently developing books for students of all ages, covering a wide spectrum of local subjects, including nature, heritage, culture and literature. Our long-term goal is to provide a book to every student on St. Martin, every year they are in school. During the four years ending in 2023, we distributed over 30,000 books to students, schools, libraries and the public on St. Martin.

Our books explore local subjects that are often not part of the school curriculum. They also help build general skills, like reading and writing. By featuring local subjects, our books make learning fun and relevant to students. To reach the broadest audience, we publish in English and French. Some books also include Spanish and Dutch.

Books are also an important way to document St. Martin's nature, heritage, and culture for future generations. We believe the books we are producing today will be valuable reference materials for the next century and beyond. In addition to books written by Les Fruits de Mer, the association assists in the publication and distribution of culturally-important books by St. Martin authors.



Amuseum Naturalis at The Old House

Amuseum Naturalis is a free museum of the nature and heritage of St. Martin and the Caribbean, created by Les Fruits de Mer. It is located at the historic Old House in French Quarter on the hill above Coconut Grove. The Amuseum features over 100 exhibit panels covering a wide variety of local subjects. It has trails and gardens where visitors can learn about native trees, and plants that are part of St. Martin medicine and farming traditions.

The Amuseum hosts dozens of school visits each year. School visits are free. Classes participate in a variety of fun learning activities in addition to exploring the Amuseum. The Amuseum hosts thousands of visitors from around the world each year. It is completely free to all guests.



Soualibra

Soualibra is a free research library that includes books, magazines and digital resources about St. Martin and the Caribbean. It promotes a deeper understanding of the island and the region, and encourages local learning and research.

Plantilles

Our plant projects are grouped under the name Plantilles. These include the gardens at Amuseum Naturalis, and our plant giveaway programs. We distribute about 1,000 free plants a year, with a focus on native trees and culturally significant plants. Our free plant stand brings visitors to the Amuseum. Native plants help create natural habitat in urban areas on St. Martin, the most densely-populated island in the Caribbean.

Online and Archives

We continuously work at documenting, saving, and sharing important knowledge about St. Martin. This process includes wildlife and wild plant photography, conducting oral history interviews, and digitizing historical documents, photos and recordings. When possible, these materials are shared online.



Conclusion

Through its work, Les Fruits de Mer aims to continue documenting and sharing what is special about St. Martin nature, culture and history, and making it available to all. In doing so, we can help preserve and share the heritage of the island for its residents and the world.

Additional Information

Website: <http://www.lesfruitsdemer.com>

Books: <http://www.lesfruitsdemer.com/resources/books/>

Films: <http://www.lesfruitsdemer.com/resources/films/>

Educational Activities: <http://www.lesfruitsdemer.com/resources/art-activities/>

Amuseum Naturalis: <http://amuseumnaturalis.com>

Soualibra: <http://soualibra.com/>

St. Martin Image Collection: <http://image.amuseumnaturalis.com/>

Sound of St. Martin: <http://sound.amuseumnaturalis.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lesfruitsdemer/>

Seegrape: <http://seegrape.com>

