



Who is who?

To the left, you see many faces of people staying in Ny-Ålesund. It is difficult to keep track of names, though we are sharing the same dinner table. On our website there is a game to learn names. And with a little bit of effort, you can add your own details so people will start to know you too.

<http://www.arcticstation.nl/inhabitants>

NySMAC Newsletter

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<http://nysmac.npolar.no>

Spitsbergen – Svalbard

There is a lot of geopolitics involved in the use of those two names. Fridtjof Nansen introduced the name Svalbard for the area to create a link with Viking history. Norwegians have been brain washed about the historical use of the name Svalbard and even today, the Norwegian Polar Institute gives little details on the justification of this name in their catalogue on placenames. Fact is, that Spitsbergen is still the proper name for the largest island and in The Netherlands we prefer to use this name for our position.

You can hear more details on this by offering us a beer.

17th century grave

Thanks to the veterans, we discovered traces of a 17th century grave of a whaler in a corner of this town. Its location, shape and orientation (exactly east-west) are typical.



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NyScience is the local newspaper with information about science in Ny-Ålesund.



The Netherlands Arctic Station has produced this first issue of NySCIENCE in 2012.

While the goose families are taking over the village, this is the team which will observe their behaviour and survival.

From left to right: Hielke van Alsemgeest, Suzanne Lubbe and Maarten Loonen.



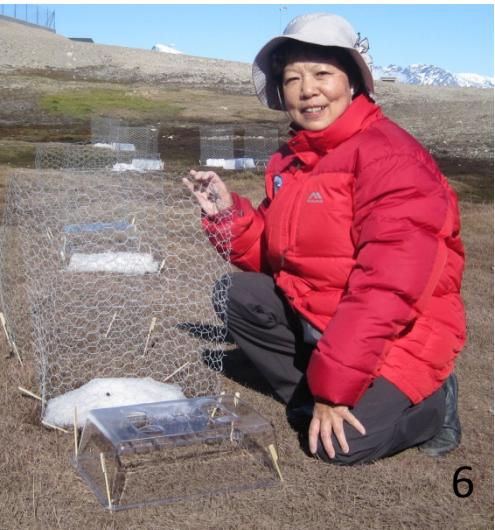
Science projects in the Netherlands Arctic Station



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Hielke is a master student studying variation in predation pressure in space and time. He places eggs with cameras in the field and wears a special hat as protection against tern attacks (1). Nathalia Lebedeva has been checking geese for hitch hiking soil arthropods (2). Blood sucking parasites are quantified with pictures of blood stains on goose eggs (3). Ritta Nissinen is studying symbiotic bacteria in plant roots (4).



Nico van den Brink and Martine van den Heuvel are ecotoxicologists who have taken samples for a new experiment studying the local effects of pollution on geese (5). Qi Zhao is measuring the effect of early or late spring on goose food. She has manipulated vegetation with greenhouses and snow addition and is now measuring grass growth and quality (6). Maarten has been checking nests and was fishing for geese (7). Jaap van der Meer will study sea butterflies and the effect of ocean acidification on higher tropic levels. While Suzanne is for the second year reading rings and counting geese (8).

In the village, we monitor insect abundance with 5 insect traps (9). Growth and consumption of grasses is followed with ringed grass shoots (10). All bird nests are mapped to study their distribution and survival. From 2000 to 2010 there was a heavy predation pressure of polar foxes. This year, we have observed hardly any predation yet (11). In the end of July, we will start catching goose flocks. The geese will be moulting and cannot fly. We round them up like sheep for ringing and blood sampling. Casper van der Kooi, Marion van Rijssel and Willemijn Loonen will come to assist us.

Next year there are several Dutch Ph.D. projects planned in Ny-Ålesund. New proposals have been submitted and are presently judged. A decision from the science foundation will be made in December 2012.

We keep an active weblog on our activities with lots of information at:

www.arcticstation.nl



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