



Nieuwsbrief 70 December 2018



Foto: Wil Geven

Wij wensen u een mooi 2019

Imaka

Imaka-lezingen 2019

<i>Datum</i>	<i>Titel van de lezing</i>
28 januari	Wim Hoek over het SEES-onderzoek 2015
25 februari	Herman Sips over het <i>IJswalvissenproject</i>
30 maart	Nog niet definitief
29 april	Thomas Lameris over klimaatverandering en trekvogels in de Arctis
27 mei	Nog niet bekend

Wetenswaardigheden en nieuws

Living with polar bears

As climate change causes summer sea ice to dwindle in the Arctic, hungry polar bears increasingly come into conflict with local people. Here's how we're helping them to live side by side more safely.

It's April in Ittoqqortoormiit, an Inuit settlement of about 450 people on the east coast of Greenland. Basalt cliffs rise from the edge of a vast fjord, but with the mercury nudging -10°C, there's no time to gaze at its raw beauty. A man walks briskly from one of the cabins studding the rocky shore, jumps on a snowmobile and heads along the coast.

Suddenly, a polar bear appears, charging straight at him. The animal is quick – polar bears can sprint faster than Usain Bolt – and with little time to react, the man defends himself the only way he can: with his bare hands, boxing the huge predator in the head.



Lees het hele artikel (met interessante video's): <https://arcticwwf.org/newsroom/stories/living-with-polar-bears/>

2018 Arctic Circle Assembly

In October, [Arctic Circle](#), the region's largest annual gathering, took place for the fifth year in a row in Iceland's cozy capital. Two thousand participants from government, business, academia, and a range of other sectors drank way too much coffee while listening to plenary speeches that echoed sentiments expressed in previous years. At the crowded reception held the evening before the

conference kicked off, the esteemed silver-haired former president of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grímsson, somewhat predictably extolled the virtues of a "Global Arctic." Yet this time, it was different. For the first time, the former president noted, a Japanese foreign minister would grace the conference with his presence.

While the discussions inside the Arctic Circle conference venue rehashed previous years' dialogues, one event in particular did speak to a sea change that has occurred in the region in recent years: the unstoppable rise of China.

Zie voor hele artikel: <http://www.cryopolitics.com/2018/10/27/arctic-circle-2018/> en voor meer informatie over *Arctic Circle*: <http://www.arcticcircle.org/>

Ice Surveys and Neckties at Dinner: Here's Life at an Arctic Outpost

For the past 40 years, thanks to satellite measurements, scientists have known that sea ice coverage in the Arctic is shrinking. Global warming has reduced the extent of ice in the region in summer, when it is at its lowest, by nearly 13 percent a decade. That has led some researchers to predict that the Arctic could be ice-free in summers by the middle of the century.

Measuring the thickness of sea ice is trickier than measuring its extent. There's a European satellite, Cryosat-2, that can do the job using radar to determine ice elevation and therefore thickness. But Cryosat-2 works best in winter; in summer, when the ice is melting, it has difficulty distinguishing between ice and open water. ICESat-2, a NASA satellite that was launched this month, will provide even more precise thickness data but will have similar summer limitations.

To fill the data gap, some governments and other groups have conducted summer measurement campaigns from aircraft. The latest was undertaken in late July and August by researchers from the Alfred Wegener Institute, which is based in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Operating from Station Nord, a small Danish military and scientific outpost in Greenland, about 575 miles from the geographic North Pole, the researchers measured ice thickness in the Arctic Ocean and in the Fram Strait, which separates Greenland from the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.



The dogs at the station help keep watch for polar bears.

Voor het hele artikel (21-09-2018 – Henry Fountain [tekst] en Esther Horvath [foto's]): <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/21/climate/greenland-arctic-ice.html>

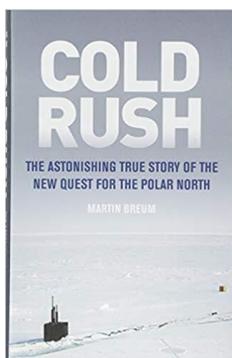
Literatuur

Cold Rush: The Astonishing True Story of the New Quest for the Polar North

Of the many books published on Arctic issues in recent years, Martin Breum's *Cold Rush* stands out as a work that is both nuanced and very readable. The author, a Danish journalist who writes extensively on Arctic issues, has written a book on how climate change is altering the Arctic landscape. Breum's book mainly focuses on Greenland and its evolving relationship with Denmark as the lens to understand the broader effects of climate change.

Cold Rush captures the challenges that confront Greenland as its leaders and people must decide whether to remain part of the Danish Kingdom or become fully independent from Denmark.

Greenlander proponents of independence argue that climate change is opening up their land and waters to unprecedented economic development (mainly involving oil, gas, rare earth elements) that will attract investment by international firms and create jobs. Alternatively, Breum notes how



many Danish leaders believe that Greenland will not be able to exit the Danish Kingdom for practical reasons, including the Greenlanders' substantial dependence on Danish annual funding to sustain their improved standard of living. There is also the need to protect Greenland's sovereignty and borders, which is presently performed by Danish military and civil forces. Breum's analysis is appropriately nuanced as he exposes the reader to the broad range of viewpoints on the future of Greenland existing among Greenlanders, as well as between the leaderships of Greenland and Denmark. [Verkrijgbaar o.a. bij amazon.com]

Martin Breum *Cold Rush: The Astonishing True Story of the New Quest for the Polar North*. McGill-Queens University Press

Pas verschenen



Voor een gesprek met de auteurs zie Historisch Nieuwsblad, [Walvissen groot en vet](#)

Uitgave van Athenaeum, € 20,00

Websites

Operation Iceberg

Een tweedelige documentaire op BBC 4 over de krachten die ervoor zorgen dat de Store Gletsjer bij Ilulissat, Groenland, beweegt en enorme ijsbergen produceert. De documentaires zijn in hun geheel terug te zien via: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/search?q=Operation+Iceberg>

Een uitgebreide en toegankelijke Duitstalige website over de poolstreken, reizen, documentatie enzovoort: <https://polarkreisportal.de/>

Groenlandse walvis

De Groenlandse walvis werd lang met uitsterven bedreigd, maar is inmiddels bezig met een comeback. Een team van biologen en drone-specialisten slaagde er in nieuwe opnames te maken. Bekijk de video: <http://nos.nl/artikel/2139039-video-zeldzame-groenlandse-walvis-gefilmd.html>

Spirit of Endurance

Volg de solo oversteeke van Antarctica van de Brit Lou Rudd: <https://lourudd.com/>

Tegelijkertijd probeert de Amerikaan Colin O'Brady hetzelfde. Volg ook zijn belevenissen via: <https://www.colinobradys.com/>

Penguin Watch

Meedoen aan wetenschappelijk onderzoek? Kijk dan hier: <https://www.penguinwatch.org/>

Willem Barentsz Pool Instituut:

Het virtuele instituut van alle Nederlandse poolonderzoekers, een netwerk voor kennis, onderzoek en onderwijs over de Arctis en Antarctica: <http://www.wbpi.nl/>. De laatste WBPI-Nieuwsbrief kunt u downloaden via: <https://mailchi.mp/035b62557152/wbpi-newsletter-september-1472701?e=114d50c701>

De nieuwe Barentsobserver: The Independent Barents Observer: <https://thebarentsobserver.com/en>

Archief Imaka-Nieuwsbrieven: <http://www.rug.nl/research/arctisch-centrum/imaka/nieuwsbrieven/>