

# Campfire News

## Rotary's Camp Florida ~ Fall 2012

### RCF'S NEW LOOK

Welcome to a brand new year at Rotary's Camp Florida. If you've been following our progress through the years, chances are you won't even recognize the campgrounds.

The large "screen room" is undergoing a facelift and on your next visit you'll be amazed at all the changes that have been made...all to make the camp experience that much more enjoyable for our very special campers.

Leonard Hall is quite the striking building now, with new paint and beautiful awnings. What a lovely gathering place for our guests!

Through the generosity of clubs, charitable organizations, and individuals, the campus is kid-friendly, wheelchair accessible, and welcoming to all.



Thanks to everyone who has helped make a difference at Rotary's Camp Florida!



### NAMES & FACES

With the beginning of a new fiscal year, it's a great time to introduce the staff and volunteers who work to keep Rotary's Camp Florida running so smoothly.

The first faces you'll see as you enter the camp will be Executive Director Jim Harmon or his wife Deb...who welcome everyone with hugs and smiles. Jim has been on board for four years now, and he's responsible for lots of improvements. He and Deb work as a team spreading the good news about the camp. They visit Rotary clubs, share the latest camp news, and generally serve as the "faces" of our camp.

You'll also meet Amos Redner, Director of Maintenance, who keeps everything running and in good repair for the entire campus, along with his wife Earlene. You might not see him right away, but the results of his work will be obvious to all.

A warm welcome to our newest employee, Paula Retter, who is a part-time assistant in charge of phone calls, record keeping, and general secretarial duties.

Rotarian Reba Cook (Rotary Club of North Tampa) is a familiar name and face to many clubs throughout the state. As chief grant writer, Reba has a unique knowledge of the camp and wonderful communication skills that she has shared with club visits to talk about Rotary's Camp Florida. She is constantly on the lookout for funding opportunities for our camp and relates that information to our directors at each meeting.



# Cliff's Notes



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
District 6950



## *A message from Board President Cliff Snedeker*

**We at Rotary's Camp Florida are proud to have you, or your club, as a Member of Rotary's Camp Florida. As a member you are supporting the work of this camp, and in so doing you have a form of ownership in the camp's corporation. You are part of a group that truly moves the camp forward, allows our continued growth, and assures the existence of this successful facility in the future.**

**The bylaws describe a member as an individual or club donating \$500.00, or more, ANNUALLY. Membership in Rotary's Camp Florida allows you to vote in the elections and be involved in camp business meetings. You also have a voice in the corporation that owns the camp.**

**RCF members provide the camp with a known base of supporters helping the camp to develop and succeed in the attainment of its goals and plans for the future.**

**We are asking all members to help us reach our goal of adding members from ALL districts and Rotary Clubs throughout Florida this year. Make an appointment to visit the camp, tell your fellow club members and friends about the camp, and encourage donors to invest in in our future!**

**If you are interested in helping, please contact Jim Harmon, Executive Director, Rotary's Camp Florida, P. O. Box 1027, Brandon, FL 33509-1027. Jim's e-mail is [Rotarycampflorida@verizon.net](mailto:Rotarycampflorida@verizon.net).**

**Thank You for your support.**

# MORE NAMES & FACES

Our Board of Directors consists of volunteers from all across the state who meet monthly to discuss the business and operations of the camp.

Rotarians serving on the 2012-13 Board are:

<b>Cliff Snedeker, President, PDG</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Clearwater</b>
<b>Ed Johns, Vice President</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Brandon '86</b>
<b>Susan Schmitt, Secretary</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Bonita Springs</b>
<b>Lynda Vinson, Treasurer, PDG</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs</b>
<b>Ben Alexander</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel</b>
<b>Bob Arnold, DGN</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Winter Haven</b>
<b>Jim Anthony</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Tampa Carrollwood</b>
<b>Suzanne Deady</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Gulf Beaches</b>
<b>Pete Doragh, DGN</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of South Fort Myers</b>
<b>John Dwyer</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Brandon</b>
<b>Ted Johnston, DGN</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Crystal River</b>
<b>Randy Kizer, PDG</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Brandon '86</b>
<b>Will Miller</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Largo</b>
<b>John Picot</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Clearwater East</b>
<b>Bruce Sobut</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach</b>
<b>Jo Weber, DGN</b>	~	<b>Rotary Club of The Villages</b>

## FROM THE COURTYARD



All the cabins have been painted bright yellow with blue trim (Rotary colors, of course!) and the playground equipment now boasts bright, youthful colors.

For those who remember the moss-filled courtyard, it's now totally paved, with many of the bricks reflecting the names of clubs and individuals who have purchased pavers in support of the camp's fundraising activities.

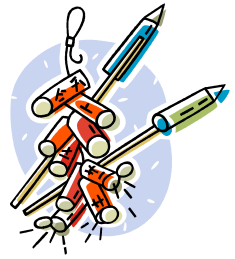


There are still many "unnamed" bricks in the courtyard, and hopefully by this time next year every Rotary Club in Florida will have its name on a paving stone!





# LET'S CELEBRATE!!!



*By Ed Johns, Vice President, RCF Board of Directors*

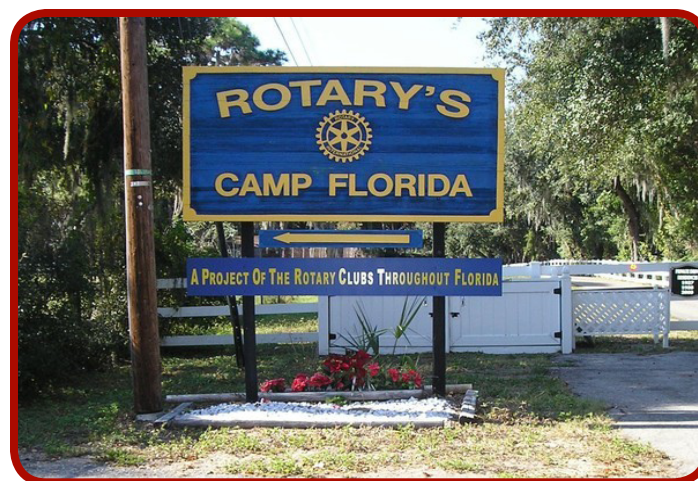
**Our very own Endowment Fund, hurrah! Yes, it is true that Rotary's Camp Florida Inc. (RCF) has joined forces with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to establish a perpetual endowment. The agreement became official on May 21, 2012 and the first contribution is in progress.**

**For those of you who have not had the good fortune to visit the camp in the past few years, we now have a cell tower on the property. RCF has given a cell tower company a long term lease on a small portion of the camp's property to erect a tower. The concept was that the camp would receive annual royalties from the tower lease.**

**In the Fall of 2011 Rotary's Camp Florida was approached by the cell tower company to buy out the lease with a lump sum payment. We don't need to get into the nuts and bolts of the contract, but they offered the camp a very lucrative deal. The Board of Directors of RCF decided that this was the opportune time to establish an endowment for the camp.**

**So, from this point forward, RCF will earn an annual income from the interest on our endowment account. The decision on whether or not we accept the earnings or let them accumulate within the endowment will be left up to your Board of Directors.**

***Please make an appointment to visit RCF and see the beautiful things that are happening. Anyone seeking more information, planning to visit the camp, or wishing to make a donation to this 501 (c)(3) organization may contact Rotary's Camp Florida at 813.654.4042 or by -mail at [Rotarycampflorida@verizon.net](mailto:Rotarycampflorida@verizon.net).***



# THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

***Without support from Rotary Clubs throughout the state, we just couldn't do it!  
Organizations donating more than \$500 in the last fiscal year are listed below.***

Rotary Club	District	Donation
Anna Maria Island	6960	\$ 800
Arcadia	6950	500
Avon Park Breakfast	6890	500
Boca Raton Sunrise	6930	1,000
Bonita Springs Morning Club	6960	900
Brandon	6890	25,350
Brandon South	6890	720
Brandon ``86	6890	1,204
Brooksville	6950	500
Cape Coral	6960	500
Cape Coral Goldcoast	6960	500
Cape Coral North	6960	1,000
Clearwater	6950	500
Clearwater Beach	6950	500
Clearwater East	6950	1,215
Clearwater Feather Sound	6950	500
Crystal River Foundation	6950	625
Gulf Beaches	6950	551
Hardee County	6890	500
Hollywood	6990	1,463
Indian Rocks	6950	5,000
Inverness	6950	500
Kings Bay	6960	500
Lake Region	6890	500
Lakewood Ranch	6960	1,850
Largo	6950	500
Lemon Bay Sunrise	6960	500
Naples	6960	3,102
New Port Richey	6950	1,000
New Tampa	6890	1,000
North Fort Myers	6960	625
Palm Beach Rotary Foundation	6930	650
Pinellas Park	6950	500
Plant City	6890	500
Sarasota Gulf Gate	6960	1,000
Sebring Sunrise	6950	500
Seminole	6950	1,625
St. Augustine Sunrise	6970	500
St. Petersburg	6950	1,339
Sugarmill Woods	6950	500
Tampa	6890	5,989
Tampa Bay	6890	500
Tampa East	6890	1,000
Tampa North	6890	8,130
Tampa West Latin	6890	600
The Villages	6980	2,000
The Villages Noon	6980	1,000
Wesley Chapel	6950	865
Ybor City	6890	2,500

# A CHALLENGE TO ANSWER

**Does your club like a challenge? If so, please join in the game!**

**The Rotary Club of Tampa Evening Foundation has donated \$2,500 toward improvements in Leonard Hall; the Rotary Club of Valrico added \$2,000; and another club has contributed \$500. Other clubs are encouraged to participate in this project.**

**Leonard Hall is the assembly site for camp programs as well as meetings. With no bathrooms in the building, campers and guests often have to walk to one of the sleeping cabins or the dining hall for restroom facilities. According to Executive Director Jim Harmon, another \$7,000 would fund the necessary improvements to make the hall more handicapped accessible and practical for all types of gatherings.**

**The completion of this very important project of adding two bathrooms would make Leonard Hall an even more viable gathering place for Rotarians, campers, and outside groups seeking small meeting facilities.**

**Could your club match the \$2,500 donation from the Tampa Evening Foundation? Let's get this important renovation underway as soon as possible!**

**For more information, please contact Jim Harmon at 813.654.4042 or email: [rotarycampflorida@verizon.net](mailto:rotarycampflorida@verizon.net).**





A Project of Rotary Clubs Throughout Florida  
**"Because We Care"**

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***VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.ROTARYCAMPFLORIDA.COM](http://WWW.ROTARYCAMPFLORIDA.COM)***