



The Spoke



February 24, 2016

“We have met the enemy and he is us.” Pogo

Mark Generales gave us a presentation about the South Florida Water Management District which along with the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for administration of the Lake Okeechobee water level.

SFWMD covers 18,000 square miles, 8.1 people, and has regional responsibility for Flood Control, Water Quality, Natural Systems, and Water Supply with an annual budget of \$750 million.

There are many competing demands placed on the district from agriculture, development, and environmental requirements.

The Everglades once covered almost 11,000 square miles of south Florida. 100 years ago, water flowed down the Kissimmee River into Lake O, then south through the Everglades marsh to the flats of Florida Bay. The river spans as much as 60 miles in width, yet is only six inches deep in some places.

In 1848 Congress conveyed swamp lands to the State of Florida with the condition they be drained. Changes in south Florida have had severe impacts on Lake Okeechobee. In the 1890s, Hamilton Disston constructed a canal connecting Lake Okeechobee with Lake Hicpochee, the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River, providing the lake's first outlet to tidewater via the Caloosahatchee River.

Small towns arose in this region, some

very close to the lake. But then, in the 1920s, two major hurricanes struck south Florida resulting in approximately 2,000 deaths. Congress directed the United States Army Corps of Engineers to lead efforts to prevent future tragedies of that scale.

Building the Herbert Hoover Dike, an earthen levee that still surrounds the lake's perimeter, was one of the first features of the USACE's solution. Today all discharges into and out of the lake are artificially controlled, except Fisheating Creek.

High water levels can lead to declines in the lake's submerged plant beds and in the juvenile ages classes of important sport fish (such as bass). When lake levels are particularly high, large flood control discharges of freshwater are sent through canals to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries, impacting the estuarine organisms.

After the construction of the canals, much of the land around Lake Okeechobee was converted to agricultural use. To the north, dairy farms and beef cattle ranching became the major land uses, while in the south, sugar cane and vegetable farming increased rapidly. The land use changes were associated with large increases in the rate of nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) inputs to the lake, leading to water quality challenges.

LAST MEETING

President **Tom Briers** presided. Week 34. **Wayne Hemstead** presented the invocation; **George Cohan** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and “after-the-bell” **Claudie Feeney** recited the Four Way Test flawlessly. **Ron Anderson** led the singing of *America, The Beautiful*.



We welcomed **Walter Restrepo**'s return to the Bonita Bay Staff. Walter left in June to return home to deal with some medical issues.

George Cohan was Sergeant-at-arms. For Claudie's benefit, he suggested that the 5th principle of the Four Way Test should be “I will be at meetings on time”. George introduced our many guests, then conduct-

ed birthday greetings for himself, **Bobbie Bird**, and **Frank Keck**. The salutation was to “You beautiful people you.” Frank reported had shot his age (80) just two days before and Bobbie confessed to having shorted her birthday check by a \$1.

Adam Botana reminds us of **February Social**, Friday, February 26, 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Florida Gulf Coast Vester Marine Field Station on Bonita Beach Rd. Beer,



wine and appetizers will be provided. Park at Bay Water Boat Club and a boat shuttle will take you to the station.



Bob Wasno, Facilities Manager, will conduct a tour of the Marine Lab. This promises to be an educational as well as an enjoyable social event. Feel free to invite your prospective member guests, and, of course, your spouse/partner.

The **Lovers Key Boat Show** and Nautical Flea Market will be March 18, 19, and 20. Mark Generales reports that there is plenty of interest and he will need many helpers for collecting money, beer tent, and parking help.



Roger Brunswick announced that the **Rotary Regular Day** meeting will be March 30th. There will be an organization meeting after this Wednesday's regular meeting.

Susan Schmitt is asking for help at the “Walk for Water” on Saturday, April 23rd. The Walk is sponsored by the three local clubs.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MOMENT

Mary Saunders, recovering attorney



Mary Saunders presented her Vocational Service Moment. At her induction ceremony, Mary professed to being a “recovering attorney” now working in Real Estate. Mary is one of few native Floridians having grown up on the East Coast. She claims to have never seen snow, never shoveled it, and never made a snowman.

She found the saying, “If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans” and says “it is one of those truths that seems to follow me through life.” After high school, Mary went to UF as a pre-med student. When she realized she was terrible in chemistry she changed course and graduated as a psychology major. She then

discovered there weren’t a lot of desirable jobs for psych majors so she went to law school.

Mary practiced law for 10 years, first for a firm in Bonita, then for a couple of different companies, and finally on her own. She met her husband, Chadwick, at UF. After a nine and a half year whirlwind courtship they were married. They have “one lovely puppy”.

Mary loves being a member of Rotary because of the networking and fellowship with “this fabulous group of people”. She also does volunteer work at Children’s Hospital. “This reminds me that there are real people in our backyard with real problems.”



Visiting Rotarian, Jim Garvey, celebrating his 60th wedding anniversary, introduced the four Rotary Exchange Students he and his wife hosted over the years. The students were from Brazil, Zimbabwe, Japan, and Sweden. A wonderful example of Rotary service.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You can reach **The Spoke** through its email BonitaSpoke@aol.com.
Scott Gerrish issue editor.

President	Thomas B. Briers
President-Elect	Steven Slachta
Secretary	Jon McLeod
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

Chuck Spears drew the 9♥ to win \$5



Rotary Sings: Michael Row The Boat Ashore

Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Sister help to trim the sails, Hallelujah
Sister help to trim the sails, Hallelujah
Brother lend a helping hand, Hallelujah
Brother lend a helping hand, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah
Michael row the boat ashore, Hallelujah

The 50/50 is \$500

The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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This Week
Investing in Today's World
Generales, McCaw, Shaw,
Quinn

Birthdays

Steve McIntosh Feb 25
Roger Brunswick Feb 26
Carl Schwing Feb 26

This Morning's Invocation

O God, we come humbly into your presence by this avenue of prayer, expressing both our gratitude for gifts received, and our yearnings to be used as gifts to others.

To that end, grant us visions of service yet unrendered, an awareness of goals yet unattained and hopes yet unrealized.

Give us zeal and power to bring to reality the good and worthy things waiting to be done, and confirm our efforts by your assistance without which we labor in vain.

Strengthen us now by food prepared and enjoyed. Enlighten us through productive conversations, and go with us as we return to waiting opportunities to make the day better for others. Amen.