



The Spoke



July 5th, 2017



DING. President **Steven Slachta** took off on his final mission as President. **Wayne Neller** presented the invocation; **Roger Brunswick** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and Past President **Ray Faubion** recited the Four Way Test impeccably.

Substitute Song Leader **Ron Anderson** got us standing for a stirring rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner*.

Bob Lombardo came to the front and noted, "It's Steven's last day as President. Let's give him a round of applause for the great job he has done." And we gave him a Standing O.

Notes

Marjorie Rubacky needs a monthly speaker chair for June 2018 to take **Heber Paulin's** place. She is looking for a newer member to volunteer and said, "no body ever turns down an invitation to speak to us."

Adam Botana proudly reported that the Reverse Raffle had earned \$17,000. Great job Adam and crew!

Steven recognized Past President **Dick Fredrickson** who was attending the meeting.

We need someone to take over the Welcome Desk. Please contact **Tom Briers** if you can help.

Bobbi told us that we make good money selling beer and wine at Riverside Park events. She **needs help for 4th of July**, 4 pm to 9 pm. Contact Bobbie.

Steven's farewell speech.



“Now that my year is coming to end it’s bitter sweet. I was blessed with a fantastic Board of Directors. During the year, I had some family and health issues and I thank you all for your support.”

Heber gets PHF



DG **Bobbi Bird** and Heber Paulin came forward. Bobbi presented him with a PHF, “Paul Harris Fellow recognition is what you have earned through your giving to this community. The board voted to present you with this award on behalf of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs for all that you have done and contributed and for your joy in doing it.”

Steven thanked President Elect **Claudie Delgado-Feeney** for bringing Heber to our club.

Roger Brunswick Time

Roger started with a thank you to Steven, “It has been a pleasure to be your Sergeant-at-Arms. The year went so quickly and we’ll all be forever grateful for the leadership you showed this group through your difficult times; and through all that we have done and the successes we have had as Rotarians.”

Roger managed to scare up a few “**Blue Bucket**” dollars with a no-pin fine. Claudie waved a check at Roger and got an early birthday celebration of the singing of *God Bless America*. Heber’s voice came through beautifully. Roger told him, “In the short time you have been here **you have left a strong, positive mark on our club.**”





Vince Modarelli introduced our speaker **Thomas Hecker** Executive Director of The Everglades Wonder Gardens. He is a native of Tampa.



He's worked at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Insectarium at the Museum of Life & Science in Durham, North Carolina, the Naples Botanical Garden and as chief executive officer of the Charlotte Harbour Environmental Center.

Hecker was chosen from 122 applicants for the job at the Everglades Wonder Gardens.

The Everglades Wonder Gardens is dedicated to offering our community and its visitors an educational, recreational, environmental and historical resource.

In 1936, brothers Bill and Lester Piper established The Reptile Gardens as a tourist attraction along the newly-built Tamiami Trail from Tampa to Miami. It was a place where visitors could marvel at the wildlife wonders of Southwest Florida.

As the animal and botanical exhibits grew, the attraction's name was changed to the Everglades Wonder Gardens to better reflect the experience available to guests.

For three generations under the ownership of the Piper family, the Gardens captured the nostalgia, history and wonder of Florida augmented with trees and plants from around the world.

In 2014, a group of local residents formed the Bonita Wonder Gardens Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. With generous financial assistance, in the form of a \$3.5 million loan from the City of Bonita Springs, the new organization was able to purchase the property and business assets from the Piper family in April 2015, saving it from potential commercial development.

While preserving the very best of the 80-year old cultural icon, the non-profit is restoring wildlife enclosures, nurturing the botanical beauty of the property, adding education programs, offering volunteer opportunities and further engaging the community to enjoy this jewel in downtown Bonita Springs.

Today, the Gardens are home to rescued birds and reptiles nestled among the old growth plants.

Upcoming Events

Fourth of July at Riverside Park 4pm to 9pm

Needed a few good Beer and Wine Merchants

Contact Bobbi Bird

This Week

**Dr. Stefan Gehrold
Farewell Brits?**



50/50 \$500

52 Cards Left

Including 4 Aces, Joker

Heber Paulin Drew the Q♦ for \$5



The 50/50 is \$500

Birthdays

Tom Burgess July 2

Rick Barber July 2

Claudie July 4

**Rotary Sings:
What a Wonderful World**

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and you
 And I think to myself
 What a wonderful world
I see friends shakin' hands
Sayin', "How do you do?"
 They're really sayin'
 "I love you"
 I hear babies cry,
 I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
 than I'll ever know
 And I think to myself
 What a wonderful world

This Morning's Invocation

Father of all mercies, on this summer day we gather here to not only break bread together and to enjoy social interaction, but to be reinforced in commitment to serve. Help us to use both our affluence and our influence to advance the principles and causes we espouse as Rotarians.

So often we focus on our own needs and situations and pray for your ministry to us. But today we pray for others. Give guidance to this club, to its board, officers, committees, and to our sister clubs in our district and across the world, that a cumulative influence may be felt to the good of all.

Accept our thanks for our manifold blessings, for food, for friendship, for commonality of effort. Grant to each of us the personal peace derived from faith and courage drawn from commitment to truth. Amen.

Rotary International

Ian Riseley

Rotary Club of Sandringham, Australia

District 6960 Governor

Bobbi Bird

The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Area 2 Assistant Governor

Joe Faerber

Estero Rotary Club

2016-2017 Club Officers

President

Jon McLeod

President-Elect

Claudie Delgado-

Feeney

Secretary

Chris Riesen

Treasurer

Bob Lombardo

Sergeant-at-Arms

Roger Brunswick

Asst. Sgt-at-Arms

Bill Banfield

Members of the Board

Steven Slachta, Jon McLeod,

Claudie Delgado-Feeney,

2015-2018

Adam Botana, Joe Murgalo,

Jon Shaw

2016-2019

Bob Lombardo, Kae Moore,

Gary Price

2017-2020

Donna Marcotte, Frank Mazzeo, Mary

Saunders

Trustees of The Foundation

Jim Dati, President; Stephanie

Kissinger, Secretary; , Treasurer;

Jason Dolle, Sandy Hemstead, Mark

McCaw, Steven Slachta, Rex Sims

Trustees



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

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