

...of Green Mussels, Lionfish, and BP Dispersant



Adam Botana introduced our speaker as “His name is Bob and he is my neighbor.” And so we were introduced to **Bob Wasno**, Facilities Manager at FGCU’s Vester Field Station. This marine research facility is

tucked away off Bonita Beach Road near Adam’s boat club.

Bob Wasno is a marine biologist who came to the area in 1989. He was selected by FGCU to convert a former “resort” into a research facility that has accommodations for housing visiting researchers, wet and dry labs, oyster hatchery, and classrooms. Students from FGCU’s sister university, Bangor U. of Wales, UK, a highly rated research university, come for two weeks twice per year to gain experience in marine environments completely different from their home.

As part of the clean up from the Deep Water Horizon oil spill, BP used a dispersant that had not previously been tested by the EPA. A variety of research projects were assigned to marine labs around the Gulf and East Coast of Florida to study the potential effects of the product. The Vester Field Station project was to examine the consequences of the dispersant on oysters. The lead researcher with 7 PHD candidate interns tested the reaction of the complete

life cycle of oysters with different concentrations of the dispersant. The results of study are considered confidential at this time.

In Florida, green mussels have already caused problems for some coastal industries. These dense assemblages of mussels can be costly problems when they clog seawater intakes, weigh down navigation buoys and foul the hulls and engines of boats. As part of their study project, Bob would collect 10-12 mussels for study and 10-12 for lunch. He says, “If you’re going to have an invasive species, you might as well have a filter feeder that helps to clean up the water and something that’s delicious.”

Conservationists wrestling with the problem of invasive lion fish have suggested that recreationally and commercially



harvesting the predatory species for food could put a big dent in its numbers. New findings bolster that view. In one-day derby events in the

Florida Keys and Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas, participants caught 1,400 of the fish, reducing local populations of this invasive species by 60 percent. They also enthusiastically ate much of the catch.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MOMENTS



Adam Botana came forward to present his Vocational Service Moment. As he came forward, there were stage whispers of “We have all listened to his radio commercials.”

Adam was born in Naples and brought up in Bonita Springs. His family includes his dog, Bailey, good parents, and “a brother I love most of the time.”

For 60 years his family was in the carnival industry, rides, games, food trailers, going from Michigan to Mississippi and Las Vegas to Atlanta. He grew up spending 6-8 months a year on the road. He says, “It was a good business, lots of fun”. His parents expanded to include Nascar and concert tours and were spending up to 50 weeks per year on the road.

Adam’s grandfather had purchased a “piece of beachfront” in the 1970’s. They developed this lot into a duplex with 30 boat slips, grandpa’s retirement program. The family decided to be in the boat rental business. After jumping through the permitting hurdles, they started with two boats growing to 16 in six months.

In 2006, they changed the operation to a Boat Club starting with 1 member and no boats. Now there are 280 members and 31 boats, the goal is 300 members. A couple of weeks ago, they purchased expansion property with the goal of 800-1,000 members and 80-100 boats. “We’ve come a long way.

There’s lots of good memories; a lot of good fights; it’s always fun.”



Tom called **Carrie Reynolds** forward to



present her Vocational Service Moment. She was born in North Carolina but was moved here at age 6 months. She has lived in Fort Myers essentially all her life. Carrie went to Cyprus Lake High School, spending her senior

year as a student at what was Edison Community College.

Carrie began working at a flooring company part time while a student then full time after graduation. She spent 15 years in the flooring business, 10 with one company, doing sales, purchasing, office administration, and dealing with contractors.

Three years ago she was looking for a change and accepted a job as a bank teller. After one year, she was promoted to relationship banker and this summer was named as branch manager of the new FineMark office in the Bonita Bay Lifestyle Center.

Carrie likes the outdoors, boating, and travel. She has made trips to Austria and England to visit relatives. She is enjoying being part of Rotary.

LAST WEEK MEETING

President **Tom Briers** aided by grandson, **Samuel**, presided. Week 26. **Wayne Hemstead** presented the invocation; **George Cohan** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Rick Barber** recited the Four-Way Test flawlessly.

We sang *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* while going around the room on our meet and greet.

Scott Anderson reported 475 of 511 trees were sold this year, about the same as last, full details at a future meeting. He especially wanted to recognize **Morgan Eldridge** and **Dale Timble** for their efforts in getting the tent setup.

Sandy Hemstead said her daughter was able to distribute 12 of the remaining trees to needy families.

George Cohan was Sergeant-at-arms. He introduced visitors including **Vincent Modarelli IV** and granted special Christmas dispensation to the “lates”.

George organized an all female chorus

to serenade birthday boys, **Carl Nickel**, **Scott Gerrish**, and **Peter O’Flinn**. **Jim Dati**, a thorn among the roses, led a man-gled rendition of Happy Birthday.

TODAY’S PROGRAM **Tom Alessi**, Author of *And They Found No Witches*

When the federal government indicted Sergeant Tom Alessi and four of his colleagues in August of 1991 on nineteen counts and seventy-two overt acts of theft, evidence planting, and excessive force, prosecutors planned to steamroll the officers into pleading guilty. They did not. Instead, they stood firm against invented lies and federal pressure while the media destroyed their reputations.

Told in Tom Alessi’s own words, *And They Found No Witches* recounts the remarkable true story of law enforcement officers who refused to sacrifice their honor—while serving as a cautionary tale of the power of a cynical justice system.



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

Last Wk: A Surprised Jim Winemiller(rr) drew the 5 ♦



The 50/50 is \$2,312

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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Rotary Sings: Auld Lang Syne

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind ?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and old lang syne ?

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.
And surely you'll buy your pint cup !
and surely I'll buy mine !
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

This Week

Tom Alessi, Author
Sgt (ret) Rochester PD

Birthdays

Vince Modarelli Dec 30
Hal Cooper Jan 3

This Morning's Invocation

Loving Lord, in this special holiday season we are grateful for spiritual realities to which to cling in the midst of secular things which hold no ultimate value for the soul. We are stirred by the joyful music of the season and for the universal message of peace and hope.

In the face of all that is pessimistic, give us an unrelenting focus on the positive. Help us to hold firmly to the assurance that though the lights go out, they can be relit.

As Rotarians, help us to add substance to hope by courageous citizenship, selfless service, and unswerving dedication in life and work to the values we know to be true and worthy of our commitment.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge the gift of food and the opportunity for fellowship. Keep us in your loving care until we meet again. Amen.