



The Spoke

“Our Natural Resource”

“We learn why the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is One of a Kind ”



Last week **Bob Lombardo** introduced us to Jason Lauritsen, Director of the National Audubon’s Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. In his role as Director, Jason oversees direction and vision for the Audubon within the Sanctuary and the region seeking to affect conservation outcomes with the greatest benefit. His presentation introduced us to the Sanctuary which occupies approximately 13,000 acres in the heart of the Corkscrew Watershed and includes the largest remaining virgin bald cypress forest in the world. The Sanctuary serves as an important habitat for wildlife and its wetlands recharge local aquifers, rivers and estuaries influencing numerous positive environmental results. You can support the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary by donating, volunteering or even becoming involved in its Citizen Science program. Visit the Sanctuary’s website corkscrew.audubon.org further information. Thanks Jason.

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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President Bobbi presided. **Stephanie Kissinger** delivered the invocation; **Mark Generales** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Jim O'Leary** the 4 Way Test. **Ron Anderson** conducted a magical version of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

A Paul Harris Moment

Once again we were treated to one of our Club's most treasured of moments, the awarding of Paul Harris Fellowships to our members. These presentations turn our attention to the grace and elegance that is philanthropy and the good use the Rotary Foundation makes of such funds in support of its humanitarian and educational projects. Last week's presentation was also especially meaningful as two long standing Rotarians, **Ira Hawk** and **Tom Burgess**, received what **Gerry Myers** described as "advanced -level" pins celebrating their service, generosity and philanthropy. Ira, who first joined Rotary in 1951, has been a member of our Club for almost 24 years. He was instrumental in starting "Shots for Tots" and had overall responsibility for that program for 15 years. Tom's leadership has resulted in the development of the FGCU Rotaract Club. A member of Rotary for almost 44 years, he is completing his second term of service on our Club's Foundation Board. Congratulations and thank you Ira and Tom for offering an inspirational example of what it means to be Rotarian.

Mark Generales circulated a "sign-up" clipboard for the May 10 Habitat workday which

will take place in Bonita Springs or San Carlos Park. Mark has all the updated paperwork for your perusal and signature. We need about 20 people to fill out our work group. Additionally, Mark announced that once again we will be presenting an "Ethics in Leadership Award" to a deserving individual within our community. **Jim O'Leary** and **Bob Lombardo** will be working

with Mark on this project. The Award emphasizes and acknowledges those who exemplify ethics, commitment and compassion in a way that significantly and positively impacts our community. Please see Mark, Jim, or Bob with your thoughtful recommendations.

If you have haven't already turned in (or sold) your Reverse Raffle tickets, now would be an excellent time to see **George Cohan** and do so. Our Raffle takes place this coming Saturday.

And finally...Tom Burgess introduced us to our Rotaractors visiting us for the final

time this school year. It was nice meeting Rozzelle, Sarah, and Noor. Enjoy your summer and thanks for your service.



From Jon's Blog...On "Keeping It Real"

Editor's Note: Over the past few months one looking for an example of courage, purpose, and passion, needed to look no further than Jon McLeod's blog detailing his training in preparation for his Gift of Life ride. Jon's personal reflections that follow touched the Spoke and they are reproduced here. Remove the word "imposing" from your Rotary dictionary, Jon We are your friends and "family" and are profoundly proud of you. Well done and keep going, friend.

So cliché, isn't it? "Keeping it real" is one of those phrases that so often is used out of context. Hopefully this isn't one of those times!

Let me start out by saying this isn't a plea for encouragement or a pity party, but rather an open window into what I'm feeling right now. It's often hard to express honest emotions daily, so they tend to get repressed.

This week marks 1 year of training for the BOS2KW ride. And right now, it's tough... It's tough physically. Tough mentally. It would be so much easier to sleep in...

Tough on my kids. I don't get to spend the time with them I would like to. Don't get to take them fishing or encourage them in school and swimming...

Tough on my fiancé. Our time together is predominantly spent discussing ride logistics. Linea has been wonderful, patient and supportive through all of this (and frankly, she encouraged me to write this post)... Honey, I love you dearly and thank you for your love and support :)

Tough on my friends. Each and every week I take a few moments at Rotary to update the club on training, fundraising efforts, special events and so on. I frequently feel like I am imposing on them...

Tough on me. Never mind the physical challenge...

This week I am preparing a medical proxy and living will in case of an accident on the way down (how's that for keeping it real?). There are many factors beyond anyone's control on the way down (like weather, mechanical issues, accidents and worse) that are beginning to weigh on me, now that the ride is 4 weeks away.



Training is tough. Yeah - the miles and hours are hard - and Coach Walton is doing a tremendous job keeping me in check - but the repetitiveness of it is challenging as well. I am looking forward to riding in places I haven't seen before. The change of pace will be nice :)

Tough to rely on so many. I've never been good at allowing people to help, yet people all around me have jumped on board to support the mission, from Linea, to my kids, Carl Nickel, my parents, brother, aunt and uncle, future father-in-law, best friends - the list goes on. Frankly, it is humbling and an honor to have such great people surrounding me and helping out.

Last year at this time I challenged myself to ride 2000 miles over a 15-day period to raise awareness for a charity I have always believed in, but never had the ability to fully participate. (I guess I am making up for lost time :)). However, I had no idea where this would take me. What started out small has turned into a tremendous undertaking that each and every person helping or donating needs to be feel proud. I am honored and proud to know each of you - and from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for your help and support!



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Bonita Bay Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133, or its websites www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. and www.facebook.com/myrotary. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com



Exhausted...as your Spoke Editor raced throughout the expansive Bonita Bay ballroom photographically recording last week's dual drawing winners—Jon McLeod and Peter Zahner. Congratulations!



**“Rotary Sings”
“Sing Rotarians”**

(“On Wisconsin”)

Sing Rotarians—Sing,
Rotarians

Sing with all your might.
Don't let troubles get you
down, folks,

Ev'rythings all right.

Open up, now—Sing it out,
now

Make those rafters ring.

Hey gang, just pitch right in
And let's all sing.



***It's A Birthday
Celebration!***

***Peter Frabutt, May 2
Gerry Myers, May 2
Mark McCaw, May 3***



**Our
Upcoming
Speakers**

**This Morning,
Dr. Salvatore Lacagnina
Lee Memorial Health
System**

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

Is it the **TRUTH**?
Is its **FAIR** to all concerned?
Will it build **GOODWILL**
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

This Morning's Invocation

Almighty God, whose springtime activity is being revealed in the natural world, and whose love and mercy are continuously revealed in the experiences of our lives, we thank you for life and all its components, both good and adverse, because through both we are strengthened.

Bless now our fellowship and the food provided for us. Confirm with your blessings our efforts to serve others, to openly espouse the high ethical standards to which we subscribe as Rotarians.

Through us speak to others of good and noble things.
Amen.

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