

# San-Captions

District 6960 Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club Organized 1979  
Chartered March 18, 1980

## Get all our club news on these

Social Media Platforms view or join us on:

Web-site: [www.sanibelrotary.org](http://www.sanibelrotary.org)

FACEBOOK: Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club

Twitter: [@sancaprotary](https://twitter.com/sancaprotary)

### Board of Director Officers:

- President: Chris DeCosta
- President Elect: Charlie Emerson
- Vice President: Holli Martin
- Secretary: Chet Sadler
- Treasurer: John Danner
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Don Russell

### Board Directors:

- Jack Alexander 2018
- Eldon Bohrofen 2017
- Cindy DeCosta 2017
- Dorrie Hipschman 2018
- John Mason 2016
- Alex Werner 2016
- Immediate PP...Bill Rahe

### Trust Fund Board

- Chairman, John Grey 2017
- Secretary, Mike Raab 2016
- Foundation, Chet Sadler 2016
- Lee Almas 2017
- Dan Cohn 2018
- Treasurer, Scott Congress 2018
- Bill Rahe (Immediate PP) 2016

### SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2016:

- APRIL** Coordinators: Trent Peake and \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Dana Carr Saving Lives at the Speed of Flight
  - 8 Kevin Ruane Mayor of Sanibel
  - 15 Susan Rice Habitat for Humanity
  - 22 Steve Agius from Rotary International
  - 29 Tom Mueller Covanta Energy Converting Trash into Energy
- MAY** Coordinators: Alex Werner and Don Russell
- 6 Sheriff Mike Scott (Don Russell)
  - 13 District Rotary Conference at Sanibel Harbor Resort

### MARK YOUR CALENDERS:

- APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>** 36th Installation Dinner of the Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club will be held at the Captiva Island Yacht Club, 15903 Captiva Drive, Captiva. Cocktails are a 6:00 PM followed by Dinner at 7:00 PM. MORE DETAILS TO COME. SIGNUP SHEET AVAILABLE
  - APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>** ROTARY TEAM NEEDED FOR "RELAY FOR LIFE"
  - MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup>, & 15<sup>TH</sup>** ROTARY DISTRICT #6960 CONFERENCE
- Information on District Web-site.

**District #6960  
Gov. 2015-2016  
Cyndi Doragh**



**RI PRESIDENT  
2015-2016  
K.R. Ravindran**



**Trust Board will meet every third  
Wednesday each month.** For  
information contact John Grey 239-472-0590

ROTARIAN, ED WHEELER CAPTURES THESE SHOTS OF CAR FIRE JUST OFF ISLAND, DURING ROTARIAN ROAD KILL PICKUP RECENTLY. POLICE EMERGENCY RESPONDER, TERRY HALL, WHILE LETTING FIRE DEPARTMENT HANDLE FIRE, MENTIONED TO ED HE HAD RECEIVED ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP FOR COLLEGE.



*Rotary scholarship  
Erie PA 1959  
to Wheaton College, IL  
Jerry Hall  
I'll always be grateful  
to Rotary!*



### CLUB SONG

Giver of all things good, We Thank you for this food,  
With one accord Lead us we humbly pray, Onward in Rotary's way  
Of service day by day, Most Gracious Lord  
(Tune of My Country Tis of Thee)

## THANK YOU...COFFEE SALES TEAM

Last Saturday Sales report...

54 Bags sold of the famous "Rotary Guatemalan Coffee" at Bailey's.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy Saturday to make this possible. CHET

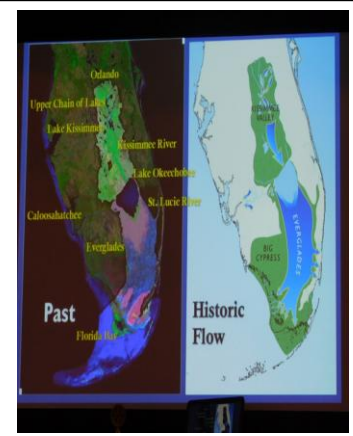
### SPEAKER NOTES 3-25-16 RAE ANN WESSEL

Well this isn't really Breaking News but somewhat in a regular pattern the water quality in San Carlos Bay and our Gulf Waters is the focus of local news outlets. But there are many environmental agencies and organizations along with a plethora of local government officials that are studying and monitoring the water quality of these areas constantly and have been lobbying in Tallahassee and Congress for a resolution for this chronic problem. Sanibel-Captiva Rotary invited Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Natural Resource Policy Director, Rae Ann Wessel, to speak at Rotary recently about Water Policy Management and Concerns.



Rae Ann had a power-point presentation showing a few graphics the most impressive being the historic flow of fresh water through Florida starting at Shingle Creek and estuaries to the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee, south through the Everglades marsh to the flats of Florida Bay and Ten-Thousand Islands; this being named the *River of Grass*. Starting in Labelle the water would take 6 to 8 months traveling through the flat plains and 16 months to travel to the bottom of the peninsula enriching these areas for many species of wildlife to grow and flourish.

But as always progress, catastrophes, and politics changed the course of that water flow. There were many reasons from development and farming to hurricane disasters and floods. But ultimately back in the late 1930s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was charged with developing a plan for diversion of high levels of excess water in Lake O through a series of channels, gates, and levees be sent east to the St. Lucie River and west to the Caloosahatchee River; clearing the path for development of Everglades land. But at what cost?



Over a good many years there has been recognition that the diverted fresh water releases from Lake O into the Caloosahatchee River have and are causing major environmental harm to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie River waters. And although the old saying is "What's done, is done", there is another old saying, "Don't mess with Mother Nature". Many of our environmental organizations and some government officials are working toward a solution, that solution is complicated and with many moving parts. There are a number of things that are involved in restoring the watershed toward a more natural flow through the everglades – "create surface water storage reservoirs, create water preserve areas, manage Lake Okeechobee as an ecological resource, improve water deliveries to estuaries, increase underground water storage, construct treatment wetlands, improve water delivery, remove barriers to sheetflow, store water in quarries and reuse wastewater, and increase underground water storage" *wikipedia*.

Recent Lake O water releases have brought this vital matter to the forefront again. As Rae Ann explained last fall the South Florida Water Management District ( SFWMD) predicted that a strong El Nino was forecast for the months ahead producing heavy rains that would bring the level of water in Lake O to dangerous levels. Lake O is a shallow water basin and the ideal depth of water in the Lake is 12 ½ feet, possibly to 15 feet but beyond that there is a danger of a breach in the Herbert Hoover Dike. Early this year the Lake level exceeded 16 feet necessitating heavy water-releases into the Caloosahatchee causing undue strain to the environmental conditions in the River flushing unhealthy river water down to San Carlos Bay and Gulf Waters destroying seagrass habitats and spawning areas. As Rae Ann said, "this causes a magnitude of harm to our ecological system with the potential to last for years". This is not only an environmental problem but also an economic concern for South West, Florida.

There are a lot of proactive organizations working together to monitor the situation and educating government officials in Tallahassee and Washington but ultimately this problem can only be solved by government involvement. Many government agencies and departments must work together on this project and monies slated for Everglades Restoration must be spent judiciously on this essential project.

"The dependency of the human element on Planet Earth is a profoundly personal relationship with Mother Nature." -

Wes Adamson . "Time waits for no man" - *Mother Nature*.

**Rotarian, Dan Cohn is asking Rotarians to join him as part of our Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club Team at the Relay For Life of Sanibel and Captiva Awareness and Fundraising Event...Friday, April 15, 2016**